

JULY 2020, ISSUE 10

PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



CELEBRATE & CREATE!

July is one of the times when people in the United States celebrate their freedoms. So, we've been thinking about the idea of freedom in terms of creating, writing in particular. In this issue, you'll find guidance on breaking free from the rules to get your message across in the best possible way, along with inspiration to explore several perspectives.

As always, we love hearing from you, so be sure to check out the News on page 2 for our Facebook info.

Happy Writing!

IN THIS E- NEWSLETTER

News:
Find Us on
Facebook - 2

Writing Tip:
Rebel with
Purpose - 3

Inspiration:
Try a New
Perspective - 4

News @ *Provisional Pen* WRITING SERVICES

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK

People use social media for several reasons, like staying connected to family and friends. Did you know you can also use Facebook to connect with us and check out some of our resources?

On the Provisional Pen Facebook page, you'll find all kinds of good writing-related info:

- a selection of our weekly blog posts,
- insight into what inspires us in the form of materials like poetry we've shared from other online resources,
- info about our online membership,
- videos,
- and our private Writers Group.

We look forward to hearing from you!

For up-to-date writing
inspiration and tips,
check us out on
Facebook
[@provisionalpenwriting.](https://www.facebook.com/provisionalpenwriting)



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

BREAK RULES WISELY

Because writing comes with a lot of grammar and style rules, as well as genre expectations, you may sometimes feel like you don't have a lot of freedom to make your own choices. In some cases, however, you have more freedom than you think. Sometimes it doesn't matter so much that you're breaking a rule; it matters how and why you're doing it.

What is the rule and how does it work?

Breaking rules unintentionally because you don't know or understand them is a problem, one that will come across to your readers. So, how do you break a rule on purpose in a way that your readers understand it's not a mistake? Well, the first step is awareness of common (and sometimes not-so-common) writing rules. If you can't remember everything you ever learned in English class, that's okay; writing handbooks and/or online resources can help refresh or supplement your knowledge.

The next step is understanding how the specific rule in question works, which can also help you understand why it exists in the first place. Again, don't be afraid to seek help from handbooks,

resources, and writers like us at Provisional Pen. We love talking about writing. Seriously, just try to stop us.

Why do you want to break the rule?

Now that you have a good base knowledge of rules and expectations, and you think you'd like to break one, think about your motivation. Is it for an aesthetic purpose? Do you think a phrase or sentence sounds more pleasing as a fragment or a run-on? As long as you understand the rules and your choice fits the style of your piece and the requirements of the writing situation, this is a stylistic choice rather than an error. Or, is it for a content or context-based reason? For example, in the novel *Barefoot*, Elin Hilderbrand writes the part of the story in which a character is typing up her screenplay in that format. This choice has the effect of drawing the reader's focus from the natural progression of the plot and showing the character's intense concentration.

Whatever you decide to do with your writing in terms of grammar, style, and genre, always keep in mind that there are fitting and purposeful ways to surprise your readers.



MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

TRY A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Write from a new point of view.

Do you typically write first-person narratives? There's absolutely nothing wrong with that, but there's a world of choices to explore when it comes to perspective. If you're super attached to first person, why not start out by trying alternating first-person perspective? That way, a few characters get to tell their own version of events; the differences can be fascinating. Another option is to have a narrator directly address your audience, the way *Jane Eyre* does; you can use second-person perspective frequently or sparingly. Third person offers creative freedom, too; you can focus on one character or alternating characters, or you can employ an all-knowing (omniscient) narrator.

Try on someone else's shoes.

Think about your own life, background, and personality. Then, do some research (by talking to people and reading) into a different lifestyle, personality, and set of circumstances. Think about what it might feel like to be someone else, and create a character based on what you've learned.

Write as the opposition.

Think about an issue you care about and create a character who opposes your views. Really try to get into their mind and figure out where they're coming from. This doesn't mean you have to agree or even find points of agreement. The purpose is to make your writing more interesting by including characters who don't reflect your beliefs.



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