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PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



LET FREEDOM RING!

Freedom can mean lots of things: an escape, a new beginning, a chance to try something different. Whatever it means to you, take some time this month to celebrate the freedoms in your life.

Here at Provisional Pen, we're thankful for creative freedom. In this issue, you'll find out how our writing consultation exercises can help you improve your skills, when to call the shots on revising your work, and how you can use writing to express yourself.

Write on!

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WRITING SERVICES

LEVEL UP WITH US!

Looking to strengthen your writing skills? Just like working out can help you enhance your physical fitness, completing exercises can help you fine-tune your writing.

So, what kinds of exercises should you do? Let Provisional Pen help. Our consultation services include access to prompts chosen for you based on your current writing level, the type of project you're working on, and your subject matter.

If you're ready for a truly personalized approach to writing help, check out our [Writing Consultation Services](#) page. Together, we can reach that next level of writing success.

Contact us
today
to get started!



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR WORK

Part of writing well is being open to change, understanding that your first draft is rarely the final version of a project. That's generally how the process works. You don't, however, have to be open to every possible change. Here are some reasons you may want to say no to a revision:

Early readers offer vague comments.

Sometimes, you will find that people don't go beyond opinion when reacting to your work. They might make comments like "I don't like it" or "It's not believable" and leave it at that. How does that help you? It doesn't, really, unless you want to go chasing advice from people who don't offer it in the first place. Or, you could just see what someone else thinks. Otherwise, if you're confident in your creative choices, you can leave the piece alone.

A few readers suggest a change, but most readers prefer what you're already doing.

Like anything, when it comes to writing, you can't please everyone. And, really, isn't knowing that a

great relief? You don't have to spend time trying to make your work perfect. Because that's not a thing. So, if the majority of your early readers are happy, feel free to stick with what you've written.

You feel strongly about preserving an aspect of your work.

Sometimes, against all advice, you believe you should leave something in your writing. Assuming it won't cause legal issues, you can do that. At the end of the day, your writing is yours. You get to decide what goes and what stays.

A caveat: be prepared for the consequences of fighting for your creative freedom.

It could mean losing funding, part of your audience, an opportunity, a publisher. If you're not prepared for those results, you can follow the advice you receive or work out a compromise. Or, you can push forward and find an alternative path to publication. None of these choices is inherently right or wrong; you just have to consider the options and decide for yourself.



MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION



EXPRESS YOURSELF

At some point, we probably all feel like we don't have a voice. Like others aren't listening, or maybe we just need to vent something we're not ready for anyone else to know about. Thankfully, writing can help.

Do you have something to share, but your words are drowned out by others who shout louder?

You don't have to be even louder. Instead, you can try another medium. Spoken word not for you? Try writing: on social media, in a letter to the editor, wherever you can be "heard."

Need to get something off your mind without an audience?

Writing works for that, too. You can keep an old-school journal or try an electronic version. If you're really worried about someone finding it, you could try writing in code or protecting your writing with a password. Or, shred the paper, use it as kindling, whatever you need to do. Sometimes, getting a worrisome thought out of your head is the bravest and kindest thing you can do for yourself. And, yes, even if you don't share your writing, you're still expressing yourself.

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If you're looking for your voice, you might just find it in writing.
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