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# PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



## BRING IT TOGETHER!

February is all about love and unity, which apply to writing as well as life. Now is a great time to devote yourself to your creative projects, and we are, of course, here to work with you.

In this issue, you'll find out more about our writing groups, how to get the most value from constructive feedback, and how to fall back in love with writing when you get stuck in a rut.

Happy Writing!

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# News @ *Provisional Pen* WRITING SERVICES

## JOIN US!

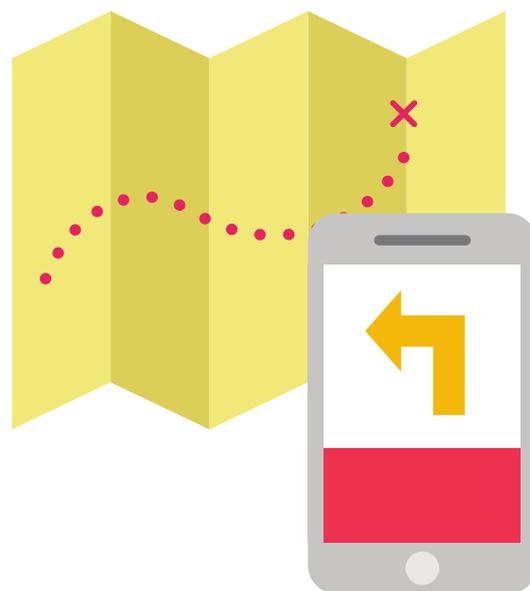
These days, flying solo is perfectly understandable. But, when you're writing, you don't have to navigate the entire process on your own. With Provisional Pen's writing groups, you can take part in a creative community from the safety of home.

### Open Group

For the writer looking to start discussing writing topics, we are happy to offer our Facebook Writing Group at no cost. Anyone with a Facebook account can join. [Simply visit the Provisional Pen Writers Group page to request membership.](#)

### Provisional Pen Membership Group

For the writer looking to take their work to the next level, we proudly offer our Provisional Pen online membership, which includes access to an exclusive writing group on Facebook where you can give and get feedback. [Visit our Become a Member page to get started.](#) New monthly members can enjoy a 3-day free trial, and new annual members get 1 free month of membership!



## WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

### VALUE FEEDBACK

Chances are, at some point in the process, someone will read and comment on your writing. This can be a scary prospect when you have worked so hard; what if they just don't "get" it? We understand your fears, but we propose that you try thinking of feedback as less of an anxiety-inducing thing and more of a helpful step in the writing process. If your intended message isn't coming across to readers, wouldn't it be better to know that now rather than after you've completed your project? Here are a couple ways to recognize and benefit from constructive criticism of your writing:

#### Define What You're Looking For

What makes criticism "constructive," anyway? To be useful, feedback must go beyond a mere

statement of opinion. Sometimes, though, early readers of your work aren't sure what to focus on. So, don't be afraid to ask for the kind of advice you would find helpful. Is there a particular area of concern you'd like the reader to consider? Not sure about a specific part of your draft? Point out these aspects and get ready to see your work from multiple perspectives.

#### Keep an Open Mind

Here's the really tricky part when it comes to dealing with feedback: deciding what to use and what to ignore. First, feel free to disregard feedback that doesn't contain advice. Now, for the good stuff: at this point, it can be a numbers game. So, if most readers are good with, say, your use of symbolism, stick with it. If not, scale it back.



# MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

## LOVE WRITING AGAIN

Let's just admit it: writing can start to feel like a slog after a while. No matter how passionate we feel about a project at first, the time and effort required can take their toll. Thankfully, though, this doesn't mean we should all give up writing to take up daring activities like bungee jumping. Instead, we can dare to stick with writing while at the same time making it a bit more bearable:

### Take a Breather

Sometimes, you just need a break. And, that's okay. Take as much of a break as possible for your particular project or situation. Even a few minutes can help. You could do something completely relaxing, like watching TV. Or, you could try another creative activity, like cooking, indoor gardening, or crafting. Either way, the time spent away from writing can help you mentally recharge so that next time you work on your project, you're approaching it with a fresh resolve and renewed focus.

### Write What You Like

Unless you're writing an assigned project in a certain genre for school or work, you probably already write what you want to write. But, maybe there is something else out there you enjoy but didn't even know you could write. Maybe you enjoy mysteries and cooking; why not create a cookbook that contains a short mystery with each recipe or category of recipes? For fun writing inspiration, think about not only what you like to read, but also what you like to watch and listen to, where you like to go, and what, besides writing, you like to do.

### Make It a Game

If you need more help getting through your writing, challenge and reward yourself. For every page you write, you could treat yourself to a five minute music break (dancing with abandon absolutely recommended). Remember, life is serious business, but you're still allowed some fun.



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