

What is Writer's Voice?

The Key to Writing a Good Story

<http://theadventurouswriter.com/blogwriting/what-is-writers-voice-creative-writing-tips/>

	Creator of Quips and Tips for Successful Writers. I'm an adventurous writer, wife, Christian, gypsy, blogger, and entrepreneur who started blogging in 2008.	
<p><i>Laurie Pawlik-Kjenlen</i></p> <p>I'm Laurie; I live in Vancouver and I put parables into practice on my blogs. Curious? Good. My degrees are in Psych, Education, & Social Work.</p>		<p>How do you free your voice in your writing? (image by howardlake, via flickr)</p>

Ask five writers what voice is in writing, you'll get 15 different answers. Ultimately, a writer's voice is the key to writing a good story.

These tips will help free your writer's voice – they apply to fiction and nonfiction, poetry and blogging.

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Lately I've been obsessed with voice because I think that's why my agent hasn't landed me a book contract yet. My ideas are great, but my voice needs work (*ouch*). Here's what I've learned about writing style and voice — but first, a quip!

“Confident writers have the courage to speak plainly; to let their thoughts shine rather than their vocabulary.” ~ Ralph Keyes, author of [The Courage to Write: How Writers Transcend Fear](#) (one of my favorite books about writing).

Don't write to impress, fellow scribes. Write to connect with your readers. Your writer's voice builds a better bridge to your readers. It's your fingerprint, it's your individual writing style, and it gives your writing soul. To learn more about freeing your voice, read [Finding Your Voice: How to Put Personality in Your Writing](#). And, use these creative writing tips to become a stronger, more courageous, more successful writer....

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Writer's Voice

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **writer's voice** is the individual writing style of an [author](#), a combination of their common usage of [syntax](#), [diction](#), [punctuation](#), [character development](#), [dialogue](#), etc., within a given body of text (or across several works).^{[[citation needed](#)]} Voice can be thought of in terms of the uniqueness of a vocal voice machine. As a trumpet has a different voice than a tuba or a violin has a different voice than a viola, so the words of one author have a different sound than the words of another. One author may have a voice that is light and fast paced while another may have a dark voice.

In [creative writing](#), students are often encouraged to experiment with different literary styles and techniques in order to help them better develop their "voice".^{[[citation needed](#)]} This aspect varies with the individual author, but having this asset is considered positive and beneficial to both the writer and his or her audience.^{[[by whom?](#)]}

Today's Encouragement

Write your way...

Don't worry about the "way" you're supposed to do things. Watch out for these common misconceptions about how your writing life "should" be. That's just *one* way to do it. There are as many other ways as there are writers, but if you focus on the way most people would tell you to go, you'll probably get discouraged along the way.

[Apr 23, 2012 by Nick Thacker](#)



The Why

*Excerpt from our eBook Building an effective SMM platform and campaign for your books
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Now this, of all the questions, is at the heart of the matter. I was going to approach it first but it tends to create an uneven argument and produces a polarization of ideas.

As a get rich quick scheme - SMM is the blitz process of sales. Spew out tens of thousands of emails and internet posts, thinking that if 1000 people see your message then 1 will buy a book. You may even decide that using some outside media-pusher the best use of your capital and pay to have this accomplished. Yes for your edification, you need to "touch" between 100 and 1000 to get a sale. The old fuller brush man only had to knock on 10 doors to get a yes. Welcome to the new dynamics of the internet.

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Summertime Fun

We are looking for stories about summertime to grace the pages of our Newsletter. Submit them to our [Newsletter Editor](#) and join in the fun

The Why Continued from Page 2

As a hobby - SMM is a pastoral, enjoyable event of meeting new friends and sharing freely your love for writing.

Somewhere, in between these two extremes, you will find your “why.” It will help define the measurement process for the work effort and, therefore, aid in selecting the tools and processes you put in place for your workday.

The essential “why” is to communicate - to build a dialogue with an audience that has interest in your literary works.

What you will consider success in this communication process is your true measurement. While you may want to express it via book-sales, you need to answer why you write so that you can find a true goal.

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For some the measurement could be 3 positive reviews of their work every 6 months. For others it could be 5 requests to speak about the heart of their topic in a quarter.

When I wrote *How Can We Find True Love... The Twelve Steps to Spirituality*, my goal was simply to share what had been passed on to me. When a reader I never met, told me it saved her daughter's life, the goal for my book was completely fulfilled, and every day since has been a blessing.

*Excerpt from our eBook
Building an effective SMM platform and campaign for your books - Page 27*

Bill's perspective

As *r.e.joyce*, the first of my epic fantasy novels “*The Finding*” is in the gentle hands of my editor [Barbara Horton](#). It is being prepared for presentation to the world. The real fun will begin once the editing and other pub-stuff is complete. That is not to say my SMM honey-do list isn't already filling up...

Before it reaches the virtual bookshelves, I need to get my SMM process in place



Build my platform - Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Blog, etc.



Gather my core readers and enthusiasts - initial email and blog announcements.



Build avenues of communications - newsletters, blogs, Forums, etc.

For me, the “WHY” is to share the joy I have found in writing these epic tales. They came from the joy of watching my children and grandchildren grow and reach out for their place in the world. Now I want to see these tales light up the minds of others who believe in adventure.

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5 Tips on Finding Your Writer's Voice

“Style is an expression of self, and [writers] should turn resolutely away from all devices that are popularly believed to indicate style – all mannerisms, tricks, and adornments,” write Strunk and White in *The Elements of Style*. The only “trick” to developing your writer’s voice and style is to relax and let it flow...

Follow your literary hunches

In an article about menopause for *alive* magazine, I used the phrases “the crimson tide” and “Aunt Flo” instead of “your period.” I hesitated at first (would readers get it? is it too casual for a health magazine?), but decided to let it rip – and the editor emailed to say she loved those specific phrases! Taking risks when you write will help you find your writer’s voice and trust your hunches.

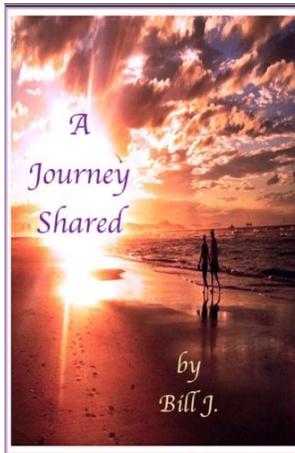
Learn the difference between good writing and voice

Developing your writer’s voice doesn’t mean you can wax eloquent for hours, ignore punctuation, or forget about editing. Learn and practice the rules of good writing, and you’ll *free* your voice. “As you become proficient in the use of language, your style will emerge,” write Strunk and White in [The Elements of Style](#), “because you yourself will emerge...” The more comfortable you are with the rules for good writing, the more your writer’s voice will shine.

Stop comparing yourself to other writers and their voices

You have natural strengths and weaknesses — and so do other writers. Comparing how you write or your writer’s voice to other writers – whether Anne Lamott or the blogger next door – is destructive and suffocating. So, admire other writers’ styles. Nurture your own. Focus on ways to [improve your confidence](#) as a writer.

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There is a sense of excitement when an author first sees the cover of one his works. In this case, my friends at DreamWriters Press have presented the cover rendering for my book *A Journey Shared*.

It is a wonderful feeling when others capture in a picture what has been written on the pages.

A Journey Shared and other spiritual books by Bill J. are coming soon... Email [DreamWriter Press](#) and get advanced notice of our release dates...

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Make envy work for you

If you wrestle with the green-eyed monster from time to time, learn how to harness that energy. Jealousy can work in your favor by showing you what you *really* want and where you *really* want your writing career to go. For instance, if you envy a bestselling novelist, then maybe fiction writing is your thing. If you read literary essays in the *New Yorker* and wish you'd written them, then take a creative writing class and polish up your literary techniques. If you envy freelance writers who [make money writing](#), then maybe it's time to invest in the latest copy of [Writer's Market!](#)

Speaking of envy, read [The #1 Reason You Haven't Written the Book You Want to Write](#).

Picture one specific reader and write to him or her

When a publisher asked me to rewrite a few sample chapters of *See Jane Soar*, she specifically asked me to make my writing more edgy and quirky. I tried, but it didn't fly. I was too focused on trying to impress the publisher and get my book published! I hadn't learned the creative writing tip of picturing one specific reader — one that I'm *not* trying to impress — and just communicating with her. That publisher rejected my manuscript, and I learned the importance of finding my writer's voice.

Your writer's voice can't be learned. It has to be freed. For more insight, read [Expressive Writing – 5 Ways to Write With Emotion and Hook Readers](#).

NANCY CURTEMAN

<http://www.nancycurteman.com/www.nancycurteman.com/Welcome.html>

I started writing in seventh grade at St. Mary's Cathedral School under the tutelage of Sister Delores Marie who told me I had talent. I believed her. I started traveling at age 21. Now I combine traveling and writing.



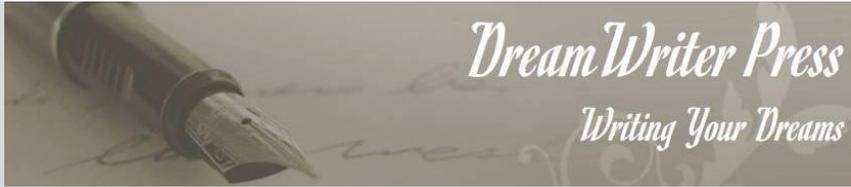
Author's Voice: How to find it?

All writers agree they want to find their own unique voice. But—what is this nebulous thing called voice and how does an author develop it? Voice is elusive. One might say it develops itself. One thing we know, voice develops from writing and writing and more writing.

Authorial voice and character voice are closely connected. A writer's voice is usually embedded in the way a point-of-view character speaks, thinks and most important in his attitude. If the character is a redneck bigot with a large repertoire of hates, his voice should show it. If the character is a college-educated liberal with hippie leanings, his voice should show it. Authors need a strong, unique writing voice. But don't allow your author's voice to be so strong and distinctive that all your characters sound alike. Character voices will be unique if the author is intimately acquainted with each one and listens to them speak.

It's important to understand that early on in a writing career an author's developing voice already exists in his/her writing. Here's how to find it: Read your own writing. When you come to a sentence or phrase that feels perfect, you've found your natural voice. It may not have reached its fullest potential, but it's there. Try to determine what you love about that sentence. Don't try to copy it, just let it sink into your unconscious. It will appear again without planning. Conversely, when you read a sentence or phrase that leaves you cold, it's not your voice. Try to determine why it seems so flat. Then avoid repetition of it. This two-step process will raise your awareness of what works and what doesn't and will eventually allow your unique voice to emerge.

Focus on your characters and your story; your voice will come.



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