






Keyboards and Kickstands: Writing Tips With a K

Drafting Checklist: 5 Steps to Find your “Flow”

Don't even start writing without working on these 5 things. Seriously! Stop hurtin' yourself! Drafting should feel good - it's not a punishment.

✓	5 Elements	What they really look like
	1. Plan Ahead I can't say it enough. YOU NEED A PLAN, or your writing will be uncomfortable, unorganized and ineffective. Period.	Always always always plan ahead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a stated purpose, audience and outline. - Have your research done and organized. - FOLLOW YOUR OUTLINE! Don't do all that work in Prewriting only to ignore it during the Drafting step. Having a good plan and a well-thought-out purpose will make your writing better and your experience more free.
	2. Your Space You need to be in a physical place that is conducive to your creative self, with all of the tools you need.	Think about what you need from your space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A place you feel good, with a comfy seat - Have beautiful things around you to look at and natural light, if possible - Write in a place that feels right for the job at hand. If your piece should feel calm - write in a calm place; if your piece needs to feel exciting and full of movement - your writing space should have an element of that in it too. Don't use this as an excuse to move around from place to place instead of writing, though. I'm on to you!
	3. Your Practice You need to be using your writing muscles regularly, and in a healthy way, in order to be able to call up the “Flow” state on cue.	Your writing skills will only develop if you develop them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you need to work on spelling and grammar, do it! Get books, or enrol in a workshop. - If you need to develop better and more interesting sentences, read good writing every day and make note in your writing journal of the structures and details you find interesting. - Develop your own free-writing practice, to free up your writing flow. Do it consistently. Writers write. If you want to be good at this, you have to practise every single day.
	4. Your Self You need to feel good in your body and in your self to communicate naturally.	Get your body and mind ready to open up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise often. Feel good in your body, and you'll feel better on the page. - Have a snack on hand that makes you happy - and healthy too. - Find some kind of emotional center that allows for natural and open communication. I dig a good 15 minute Yoga sesh before I sit down to write, but you could try a chat with your mom - whatever works for you. Remember that you have something to say, and that when you feel good, you will say it more clearly and comfortably.
	5. Your Voice You need to trust your Voice to say what you want to say, in a way that is genuinely yours.	Get to know who you are, and be true to that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you really love to talk about? Talk about that. - What words do you use all the time? Use those. - Develop your own Voice by reading good writing and noticing what you like when you see it. What is it about you that makes you feel uniquely yourself? Don't let that disappear while you learn the other pieces of writing well. You gotta do you! (Just do it with a plan)