

GUIDE BOOK

How to be successful in creative writing



www.creativewriting.com



Table of Contents

01	General guidelines
02	Tips for students
04	How to structure your piece
06	Avoiding clichés
08	Adherence to topic
09	What is imaginative language?
10	How to use imaginative language
11	The WOW factor



General guidelines

Read Widely: Good writers are often avid readers. Read a diverse range of genres and styles to expand your vocabulary and expose yourself to different narrative techniques.

Write Regularly: Practice is key. Set aside dedicated time for writing, even if it's just a few minutes each day. Consistency helps you improve over time.

Read About Writing: There are many books, articles, and courses on the craft of writing. Explore these resources to gain insights and learn from experienced authors.

Be Patient: Success in creative writing often takes time. Rejection is part of the process, but don't be discouraged. Keep submitting your work and improving your skills.

Embrace Criticism: Not all feedback will be positive, and not everyone will like your work. Learn to accept criticism gracefully and use it to grow as a writer.

Remember that success in creative writing is a personal journey, and it may mean different things to different people. Define what success means to you, set your goals accordingly, and enjoy the process of creative expression.

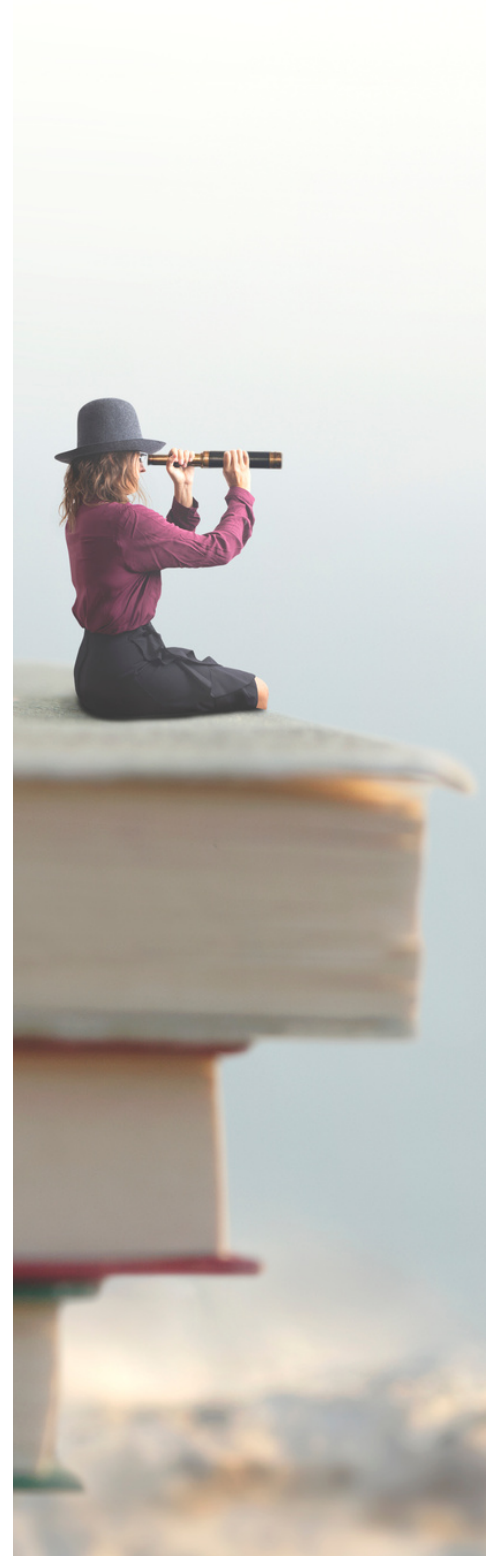
Tips for students

1 GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE COMPETITION RULES
Carefully read and understand the competition's rules, make sure your entry meets the requirements for word count, format, font, and size.

2 SELECT THE TOPIC WISELY
Select a topic that interests you and that you can explore creatively.

3 PLAN YOUR WRITING
Outline your story before you start writing. This helps you organize your thoughts and maintain a clear structure.

4 CREATE ENGAGING CHARACTERS
Make your characters interesting and multi-dimensional. Readers should care about what happens to them.



5

DON'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED – SHOW IT

Use descriptive language and vivid imagery to engage the attention of the judges. Show emotions, actions, and scenes rather than simply telling the audience what's happening.

6

START WITH A STRONG AND INTRIGUING BEGINNING

Your first paragraph should attract the attention of the judges. Start with an impressive scene, dialogue, or intriguing statement.

7

DEVELOP A MEMORABLE ENDING

Make sure you finish your story with an impressive ending which will leave a memorable impression on the judges.

8

STAY UNIQUE IN YOUR WRITING

Be unique in your writing. Don't try to copy someone else's writing ideas or style. Trust that your unique ideas and writing style are valuable.

9

READ PREVIOUS WINNING ENTRIES

Review past winning entries from the competition. This can give you insights into what judges are looking for. (www.creativewriting-bg.com/results/ - check the Writing Works Collections from previous years)

10

STAY POSITIVE

Regardless of the outcome, view the experience as a chance to learn and grow as a writer. If you don't win, remember that judging can be subjective. Don't be discouraged; keep writing and improving.

Remember that creative writing competitions are not just about winning but also about the experience and the opportunity to share your voice and creativity with a wider audience.

How to structure your piece of creative writing?

Structuring a story effectively in creative writing is crucial for engaging readers and conveying your narrative in a coherent and compelling manner. Here is a step-by-step guide on how to structure your story:

Start with a strong hook

01

Begin your story with a captivating opening that grabs the reader's attention. This can be a dramatic event, a thought-provoking statement, or an intriguing question.

Introduce the setting and characters

02

After the hook, provide the reader with essential information about the story's setting, time period, and main characters. Create a vivid sense of place and introduce your protagonist.

Establish the inciting incident

03

The inciting incident is the event that sets your story in motion. It's the problem or challenge your protagonist faces, which propel them into action.

Build rising action

04

Develop the rising action by introducing obstacles, conflicts, and complications that the protagonist must navigate. This builds tension and keeps the reader engaged.

Develop characters and relationships

05

As the story progresses, delve deeper into your characters' backgrounds, motivations, and personalities. Show how their relationships evolve over time.

Reach the climax

06

The climax is the story's high point, where the central conflict comes to a head. It's the most intense and pivotal moment in your narrative.

Provide a resolution

07

After the climax, offer a resolution to the main conflict. Tie up loose ends, answer important questions, and provide a sense of closure to the reader.

Create a memorable ending

08

Craft a satisfying and memorable ending that leaves a lasting impression. It can be conclusive or open-ended, depending on the tone and theme of your story.

Remember that the specific structure of your story will depend on its genre, themes, and the effect you want to achieve. Whether you choose a traditional three-act structure or a more unconventional approach, the key is to engage your readers, maintain their interest, and provide a satisfying narrative experience.

Avoiding clichés in creative writing

Here are some tips to help you steer clear of clichés and infuse freshness into your writing:

01 READ WIDELY

To avoid clichés, you need to know what they are. Read a wide range of literature, including classic and contemporary works, to get a sense of what has been done before. This will help you recognize and avoid common clichés.

02 BE SPECIFIC

Instead of relying on general phrases, be specific in your descriptions and language. Use concrete details and vivid imagery to create a unique piece of writing for the reader.

03 CREATE ORIGINAL METAPHORS AND COMPARISONS

Instead of using popular metaphors and similes, create your own that are relevant to your story. Think about the unique qualities of your characters, settings, or situations and develop comparisons that reflect them.



A cliché in writing is a phrase, expression, idea, or plot that has been used so frequently that it has become predictable, overused, and lacking in originality.

Examples of clichés in writing include:

**"Once upon a time...";
"He had a heart of gold"; "She was as cold as ice"**

Avoiding clichés in creative writing is important because they can make your work feel unoriginal and uninspired.

Remember

Remember that avoiding clichés doesn't mean you can never use common phrases or expressions, but it's about using them sparingly and purposefully. The goal is to engage the reader with fresh, imaginative, and authentic writing that brings your unique perspective to the forefront.

- 04 CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**
Create well-rounded, unique characters with distinct personalities and traits.
- 05 USE FRESH DESCRIPTIONS**
When describing settings or environments, avoid clichéd descriptions and opt for fresh, unexpected details that capture the essence of the place or moment.
- 06 PRACTICE CREATIVITY**
Creativity is a skill that can be developed. Practice writing exercises that encourage you to think outside the box and come up with original ideas and expressions.
- 07 TRUST YOUR VOICE**
Embrace your unique voice as a writer. Your perspective and experiences can lead to fresh and original storytelling.

Adherence to topic

1. OUTLINE OR PLAN

Before you start writing, create an outline or plan for your piece. This will help you organize your thoughts and ideas around your chosen topic.

2. STAY ON MESSAGE

While creativity allows for some flexibility, make sure that each element of your writing, from characters to plot points, contributes to your chosen topic. If something doesn't fit, consider whether it's necessary or if it should be revised or removed.

3. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Ensure that your characters' actions, thoughts, and dialogue align with the topic. Characters should be consistent and their motivations should be tied to the theme.

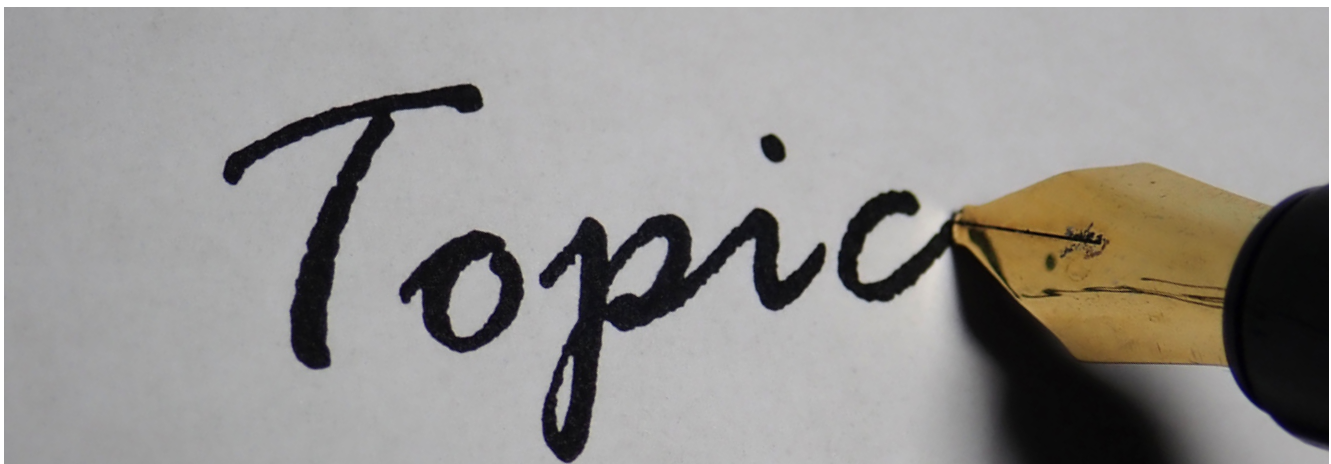
4. EDIT AND REVISE

After you've completed your draft, review your work and eliminate any sections that stray from your topic or theme.

5. PRACTICE

Adhering to a topic in creative writing can be challenging, but it gets easier with practice. Keep writing, and over time, you'll become more skilled at staying on topic while still exploring creative avenues.

Balancing creativity with adherence to your topic is key to creating compelling and meaningful creative writing.



What is imaginative language?

SIMILE: A simile is a comparison between two unlike things using "like" or "as." For example, "Her smile was as bright as the sun." Using similes can make your descriptions more vivid and relatable.

METAPHOR: A metaphor is a direct comparison between two unlike things, suggesting that one thing is another. For example, "The world is a stage." Metaphors can add depth and layers of meaning to your writing.

PERSONIFICATION: Personification gives human qualities to non-human objects or animals. For instance, "The wind whispered through the trees." Personification can make inanimate objects come to life and create a more emotional connection for the reader.

HYPERBOLE: Hyperbole involves exaggeration for emphasis. For example, "I've told you a million times." Hyperbole can add humor, drama, or intensity to your writing.

IMAGERY: Imagery involves creating vivid mental pictures by appealing to the senses. Use descriptive language that engages sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell to immerse your readers in the scene.

SYMBOLISM: Symbolism uses objects, characters, or concepts to represent abstract ideas or themes. For example, a red rose might symbolize love and passion. Symbolism can add depth and layers of meaning to your story.

OXYMORON: An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines contradictory or opposing words. For example, "bittersweet" or "jumbo shrimp." Oxymorons can create interesting contrasts in your writing.



Imaginative language, also known as figurative language, is a literary device that writers use to create vivid and imaginative imagery in their writing. It goes beyond the literal meaning of words and involves the use of various techniques to engage the reader's senses, emotions, and imagination. Here are some common forms of imaginative language and tips on how to use them in creative writing:



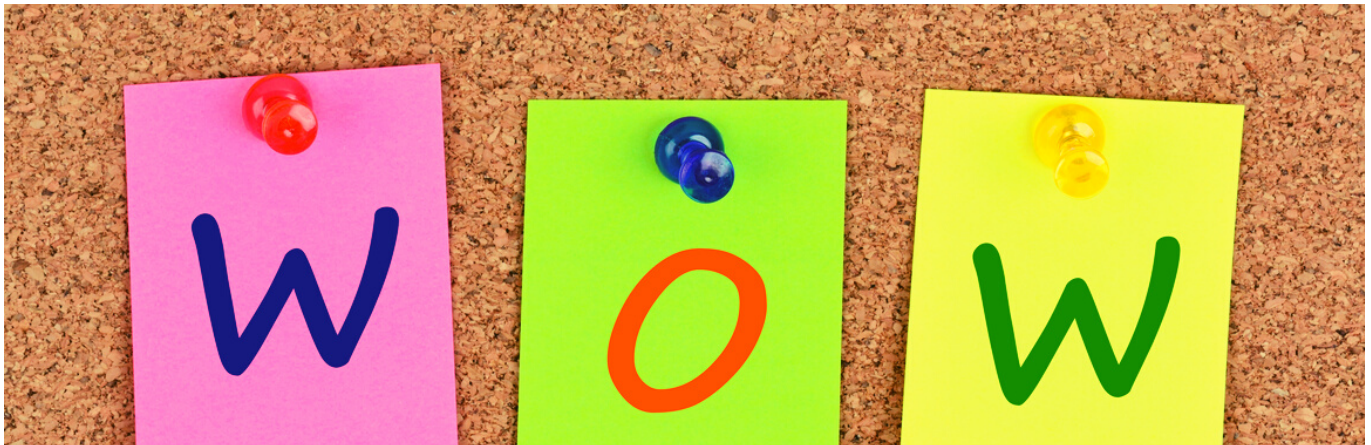
How to use imaginative language in creative writing?

Ultimately, the goal of using imaginative language in creative writing is to engage your readers, evoke emotions, and bring your narrative to life by painting vivid mental pictures and conveying abstract ideas in a captivating way.

To use it effectively, consider the following tips:

- ✓ **CHOOSE THE RIGHT MOMENT**
Use imaginative language when it enhances the reader's understanding or emotional connection to a scene or character.
- ✓ **AVOID OVERUSE**
While these devices can add richness to your writing, using them excessively can become distracting. Balance is key.
- ✓ **BE SPECIFIC**
Use concrete and sensory details to create a clear and evocative image in the reader's mind.
- ✓ **CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCE**
Keep in mind your target audience and the genre you're writing in. Some genres and age groups may be more receptive to certain forms of imaginative language.
- ✓ **REVISE AND EDIT**
After writing, review your work to ensure that your imaginative language serves your overall storytelling goals and doesn't detract from clarity.

The WOW factor in creative writing



The "wow factor" in creative writing refers to the ability of a piece of writing to elicit a strong and positive emotional response from the reader. It's about capturing the reader's attention, sparking their imagination, and leaving a lasting impression. Achieving the wow factor can make your writing memorable, engaging, and impactful. Here are some techniques to incorporate the wow factor into your creative writing:

Vivid Imagery

Paint a vivid picture with your words. Use descriptive language that allows readers to visualize scenes, characters, and settings in their minds. Appeal to the senses with sensory details.

Unique and Memorable Characters

Create characters that are relatable, multi-dimensional, and unique. Give them distinct personalities, quirks, and motivations that resonate with readers.

Intriguing Plot Twists

Surprise your readers with unexpected plot twists and turns.

Evocative Language

Craft your sentences and dialogue with care. Use language that is evocative, poetic, or poignant, depending on the mood and tone you want to convey.

Emotional Resonance

Connect with readers on an emotional level. Make them care about your characters and the outcomes of your story.

Powerful Opening and Closing Lines

Begin your story with a compelling hook that grabs the reader's attention. Similarly, end with a memorable closing line that leaves a strong impression.

Suspense and Tension

Build suspense and tension in your narrative. Keep readers guessing, and create situations that make them eager to know what happens next.

Strong Editing

Polish your writing to perfection. Eliminate unnecessary words, awkward sentences, and inconsistencies. A well-edited piece reads smoothly and professionally.

Remember that achieving the wow factor in creative writing takes practice and dedication. It often involves multiple drafts and revisions.

What wows one reader might not have the same effect on another, so be open to different perspectives and interpretations of your work.

Ultimately, the goal is to create writing that resonates with your intended audience and leaves a lasting impression.



“

I like the fact that the competition gives aspiring writers (or simply people with ideas they want to express without hoping for long-term development in the literary field) the opportunity to explore their creativity and test their skills. There is nothing more encouraging for pursuing your dreams than having a supportive platform that enables you to do so, which is what this competition is.

– A BCWC JUDGE