

The Way to Writing

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Lesson One - Decide to Write

Being a writer does not start when you put your fingers to the keyboard or pen to paper.

It does not even begin when you create an outline or map out an idea or create your characters.

Writing, if you intend to be successful at it, begins before all of that; before outlines and certainly before word counts.

It starts with a *decision* to do so.

Nobody writes by accident. It is a deliberate choice. And successful writers approach this choice with even deeper resolve.

Before you do anything in life and before you set out to achieve any goal, lofty or otherwise, you have to commit yourself to it, mentally. The degree to which you set yourself to your goal is directly proportionate to whether or not you ultimately achieve it, and the more resolved you are in your thinking, the more likely you are to see the results for which you aim.

You become what you think about.

Everything worthwhile begins as an intention. All considerable success and all big accomplishments start as a

thought or inkling, and the probability of achieving something lies in whether or not you set yourself to it, and to what degree.

So, plant the seed.

Say to yourself that you are going to start writing. Say it with resolution, and repeat it with sincerity. State it in a way that makes it seem genuine; deep-rooted, and hold it very close.

Decide with resolution that you intend to write, and then state that objective all the time. Remind yourself every morning that you are already a writer, and that you intend to write.

Keep reminding yourself of this decision.

One caveat is that you must believe in your goal entirely. One would assume that you are already naturally talented at writing... or in the very least have a sincere interest in doing so beyond the superficial "I just think it would sound cool to publish my work." One would assume that if you want to write, it is because you are drawn to writing for a substantial reason, and that that reason is worthwhile.

If this is not the case and you are only writing for the sake of writing, or you want to write because it sounds cool or the idea of being a best-selling author is appealing because you want to impress your old high school classmates, then I would encourage you to find something that is better worth your time. You are meant for something else, my dear, and you can have greatness if you only choose to pursue a field

that really brings that out.

(Which may not even be writing. And that is okay.)

If, however, this assumption does apply to you and you are writing because you love to write, you are a natural writer.

I urge all us to first discover our natural talents, and then organize these strengths into an actionable objective, learning from it as we move toward that goal. Stating our goal and repeating it or writing it down every day, especially in times of low productivity is invaluable in determining our eventual success.

Writing a book or writing in general must be, for whatever period of time (whether it is one month or one year) a clear and definite aim. It cannot be a wayward “maybe, someday, not today” sort of thought. It cannot be a fuzzy “maybe, kind of” sort of ambition. If it is, you will most likely fail. If you approach your own writing as a disposable task - something that you “might” start to fit in “if there’s time” - then you will undoubtedly never make it your first priority, and you will never be the writer you could. You will not see success in your writing.

Without an actionable goal - one that you believe in and are passionate about accomplishing - you will undoubtedly fail. The primary cause of failure is having no definite, specific aspiration against we are measuring our actions from one day to the next; no target at which we can direct our energies.

Without a clear objective, we flounder.

And when we flounder for too long, we fail.

Do not drift aimlessly in your thoughts regarding whether you will or will not write. We have already agreed to agree that you are, on some level, a writer. And if you are a writer, on whatever level, permit yourself the right to actually write. Decide this.

Decide with certainty and resolve.

Go into this with the conviction that you will actually write - that you are committed to the task - and you will see the task itself unfold more easily.