

Continue



Writing strategies examples

Home / Book Writing / 24 Writing Strategies to Write Better. Write More, and Sell More Every author needs their own strategy. Whether you have strategies to write, to improve your writing, or to sell your writing, some kind of structural approach is usually necessary. But what strategies should you use? Which of the most effective? Which are best for you? These are the questions that we will cover in this article. In this article, you will learn: How to prioritize your strategies Strategies for productivity Strategies for marketing Table of contents In this article, you will learn: How to prioritize your strategies Strategies for productivity Strategies for marketing Before you can even start assembling your strategies, you need to understand your objectives. For this article, I am assuming you want to increase one of the following: Making your writing better Writing faster Increasing your sales Generally speaking, I recommend focusing all of your intention on just one of these at a time. Choose the one that will have the biggest impact, or that will make the others easier. For example, better marketing of your book might not be a good focus of your time if you're actual book is in good. Likewise, it can be hard to get better at writing, if you are not prolific in writing consistently. Whatever the case for you, I hope these strategies will be useful for you. The following are some of the strategies I use to improve my writing: An outline is a great way to improve the structure of your writing, or to save you a lot of time later on in the revision stage. A good book always has structure, and almost always conforms to a broad established structure of some kind. Setting this up before hand is a great way to learn about storytelling and get your book off on the right foot. A great exercise that you can use to improve your writing is to try free writing. Free writing is the process of simply starting to write some words, without any idea of where they are going to go. A lot of people wonder why you would do this, as it usually doesn't contribute to the final word count of your book. But it can be an invaluable way to explore ideas, explore yourself, and simply gain practice writing in a personal, eloquent way. As you are going about your day, get in the habit of taking notes whenever you see something that could work in a book. Some of the best ideas come from real-life inspirations, especially when they are mixed together with other ideas you may have had other times. Have an app handy on your phone, or some index cards available to quickly write down your ideas as you have them. The best ways to learn anything is to learn from someone who is already an expert in. That way you can distill a decade's worth of experience into a shorter amount of time. You can do this by finding online courses from established authors, or finding a local class at a community college or other establishment. Almost every manuscript can be trimmed down. Almost every sentence can use fewer words. Enough said. In order for someone to enjoy your book, they must first become interested in it. You grab that interest and attention with a good hook. This is true of marketing, but it is also true of the text itself. Your opening line, your opening chapter, etc. should all be designed specifically to draw a reader in. The better you can do this, the more engaged your reader will be. Before you begin your book, it is important that you know who you are writing for. You might only be writing for yourself, as that is okay. But if you want your book to have a larger appeal, and to sell more copies, you need to understand who you will be selling those copies to. Start by identifying your target audience, then looking everywhere that that target audience gathers. What kind of Facebook groups are they hanging out in, what authors do they like, what podcasts or YouTube channels do they watch, you get the idea. One of the better ways to edit your book is to read it out loud. Doing this you will catch a lot of mistakes that you would not have caught otherwise, you are more likely to catch awkward sentences and phrases, as well as overreliance on certain words, when you are reading the text out loud. Alternatively, you can get an AI voice or other text reader to read it back to you. One of the best ways to improve your book is to get an editor. This seems obvious on the surface, but not necessarily for the reasons you might think. For example, we all know an editor can help a book improve, but a good editor would not only do this but will also help you improve as a writer. All that feedback has an effect on you and on your writing. The quickest way to grow stale and cease progressing as an author is to stop learning. You should always be looking for new and innovative ways to practice writing and improve your books. While I placed this strategy under this category, it also applies to writing faster and selling more books. You should be actively trying to learn in every area of your business. For Nonfiction: Hook, Story, Solution If you write nonfiction, here is an additional strategy you can use. Nonfiction is best when it is solving someone's problem. The best way to present the solution to this problem is to follow the framework: Hook, story, solution. Your hook is what gets people interested, then you tell them a story that gets them invested. This can be any story from your personal life, the lives of others, or even made up stories. Then you offer the solution to the problem, which you have just illustrated with the hook and story. This is the best way to not only give people what they need, but to get them excited about the solution as well. Easy to use, and full of amazing features, you can quickly turn your book into a professional book. Check It Out For Nonfiction: Break up the Page White space is your friend, especially in nonfiction writing. If you want people to stay engaged with a nonfiction book, you needed to be easy for them to read. Giant blocks of text are going to be overwhelming and cause your reader's eyes to glaze over. Instead, break up the page with multiple paragraphs, headings, subheadings, bulleted lists, etc. That will do a lot to improve your writing as a nonfiction author, and it is also a better way to organize your thoughts. The following are my favorite strategies to write faster. If you want to know more strategies along this line, see our article about how to write fast. The best way to write faster and more consistently is to practice. The best way to practice is to do so consistently. That is why I recommend setting up an established time to write at least once a week. Make this an unshakable habit that you will not break. The more you can write, the more practice you will get. The faster you will become. Plus, you will eliminate any major decision fatigue because you will have become a habit. Established brain expert Jim Kwik says, "when your body moves, your brain grooves." Scientific studies show that exercise is great for your brain. But it is not just exercise. Simply moving around at all is going to help you think. (Side note: this is why I picked up dictation, and why I am dictating this article right now, because it allows me to move around while I write.) If you can, use the Pomodoro method to remind you to get up and walk around every half hour. You will find that this keeps your brain alert and much more creative. If you are overwhelmed with all you have to do when writing a book, try breaking the book down into more manageable tasks. If you are able to check off one chapter a day, it feels a lot more productive than if you thought about it as just a small portion of your book as a whole. Try not to pressure yourself too much when writing. If you don't enjoy the task, you will eventually come to resent it, which leads to burnout and a lack of writing. Instead, give yourself permission to enjoy it. Don't pressure yourself, and you may eventually come to love it. As of this writing, I have lost nearly 100 pounds. I can say with absolute certainty that having good health is one of the most important aspects of a productive mind. There is a massive difference when I am feeling healthy compared to when I am not. I especially recommend giving up entirely, the following: Sugar Flower Oils that didn't exist before the Industrial Revolution I know that is a lot, and it is difficult for almost anyone who lives in our current modern society. But not only will it help you write at a pace you've never seen before, but you will also feel amazing while you do it. I enjoy exploring any option that will help me write faster. As I mentioned before, I am using dictation to write this very post, and I have used AI in many aspects of my writing to help me get past writer's block, and to speed up my generation of ideas. I know artificial intelligence is a bit of a hot topic right now, but there are many benefits as well. For example, many writers who are neuro-divergent, or have other difficulties writing in the traditional manner, find dictation and AI to be godsend. Myself among them. If that sounds like you, maybe give them these two options a shot. They will greatly increase your productivity. Perhaps your writing is decent, and your productivity is off the charts. What's left? Well, if you aren't selling your books, a lot of all of that work matters little. Here are some strategies to increase your sales, and I recommend his post about book marketing to learn more. Amazon and other retailers run on algorithms. Most of those algorithms require keywords to help show up for the right searches. Analyzing the right keywords and categories will help you gain increased visibility, so the right readers are finding your books. There are so many social media platforms out there that it is hard to know which to focus on. If you try to do all of them, you will spread yourself too thin. Instead, we recommend picking one and learning to truly master it. Email is the single most important asset that you can have for marketing. From the very beginning, even before you write your novel, you should be focused on building an email list. This can be done by creating a reader magnet that you give away for free and exchange for someone's email. Once you have an email list, you can sell your book to them. And it is generally more effective than any other form of marketing. See the Publisher Rocket effect, when you use the right keywords and categories to help get your book seen more on Amazon. Get Publisher Rocket Now! Use book promotions if your book is going to be on sale, there are many opportunities to gain visibility. One of them is book promotions, where you pay someone a small fee to share your book with their list. These promotional strategies are still effective today, and can be a great way to kick off the marketing of your books. Books are what we call "low-margin" products. This means that you have to sell a lot of them to make any significant profit. Because of this, it can be helpful to have a series, which maximizes the amount of revenue that someone will pay you if they become invested in your work. If someone reads the first book in your series, there is a certain percentage of them that will go on to read the rest of your series, which gives you more money. This one is a bit controversial for some, but goes hand-in-hand with the strategy above of knowing your audience. If you don't know your audience well, and know what it is that they like, you will not be able to appeal to them. Therefore, it is important that you not only understand your audience, but that you write marketable fiction in your genre if you want a higher chance of selling. I hope this has been useful for you, and that you have found one or two strategies that you can put from this list and apply in your own writing life. As always, continue to explore all of the articles here on Kindlepreneur, because we have a lot more writing strategies that you can put to use in various aspects of your writing or marketing. Cheers! Sep 11, 2024 7 min read Tags: Fiction, Fiction Writing, Language Want to take your writing to the next level? Explore 15 amazing writing techniques! From persuasive writing techniques to storytelling techniques, we've covered everything! With this, we've also included examples of all types of writing techniques. Through this blog, we've also answered questions like "What are writing techniques to create a better rhythm, flow, and pacing", "What are writing techniques that help enhance the climax", and "What are writing techniques that can help create vivid descriptions". So without any delay, let's understand creative writing techniques together! Now let's understand these different writing techniques in detail! Elevate your writing with professional editing services! 1. Stream of consciousness In stream-of-consciousness writing, the narrator's thoughts are presented in a continuous flow. This technique often doesn't include logical transitions between concepts and ideas. The writer may jump from one idea or memory to another, incorporating sensory impressions, half-formed thoughts, and internal monologues. Example: Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf "How fresh, how calm, stiller than this of course, the air was in the early morning; like the flap of a wave; the kiss of a wave; chill and sharp and yet (for a girl of eighteen as she then was) solemn, feeling as she did, standing there at the open window, that something awful was about to happen..." 2. Zeugma Zeugma is a writing technique where a single word is used to change or describe two or more things in different ways. Usually, this word is a verb or an adjective. This is one of the writing methods used to create emphasis, humor, or a poetic effect. Example: One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez She had lost her parents, her husband, and any desire to keep on counting. In this example, "lost" applies to both, her parents, husband, and desire. 3. Allegory An allegory is a literary device in which abstract ideas, principles, or moral truths are represented through characters, events, or story settings. Allegories make complex ideas more engaging by presenting them in the form of a relatable narrative. Example: Animal Farm by George Orwell This book's story about talking animals on a farm represents the Russian Revolution's complex historical events and the rise of the Soviet Union. The characters, events, and setting directly correspond to real-life figures and events; the pigs represent the Bolshevik leaders, the rebellion symbolizes the overthrow of the Tsar, and the farm itself stands for Russia. Through this allegorical framework, Orwell critiques totalitarianism. 4. Analogy An analogy is a literary device that compares two unrelated things to explain a concept, idea, or situation. This is one of the techniques in writing that makes writing easier to understand. For writers crafting essays, self-help books, or creative fiction, this is one of the best persuasive writing techniques. Example: The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan "Memories are strange things. They are not like a photographs, to be looked at and put away. They are more like a kaleidoscope, with the same pieces of colored glass shifting into an endless variety of patterns." 5. Fragmentation Fragmentation is a writing technique where sentences are broken down into smaller, incomplete, or disconnected parts. This helps to highlight important themes and reflect the character's scattered thoughts, emotional state, or chaos. Example: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak Rudy Steiner. The Jesse Owens of Himmel Street. The boy with hair the color of lemons. The boy who was her best friend. Also read: 100+ Creative Writing Prompts for Masterful Storytelling 6. Vignettes A vignette is a short, descriptive scene or account that focuses on a specific moment, character, or setting. Vignettes are often used to capture a particular mood, theme, or impression. They can be used to provide a brief glimpse into a larger story or to explore a character's emotions, thoughts, or experiences. Example: The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros "The monkey doesn't live there anymore. The monkey moved away after the rain started. The rain stung his eyes, and the ground was slippery under his feet, and the branches were slick with water. The monkey went looking for a new home, a dry warm place. I don't know where he went. Probably north. Monkeys like to be warm." 7. Rashomon Rashomon is a storytelling technique that presents a single event from multiple, often contradictory perspectives. Each character provides their own subjective interpretation of the event. The reader or viewer has to piece together the truth from the conflicting accounts. Example: The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner "In "The Sound and the Fury," William Faulkner presents the decline of the Compson family through the varying perspectives of Benjamin "Benji" Compson, Quentin Compson, Jason Compson, and Dilsey Gibson. 8. Parallelism Parallelism is a writing technique where words, phrases, or clauses that are similar in structure or meaning are used together. This helps to create flow and rhythm. Example: A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..." 9. Defamiliarization Defamiliarization is a writing technique that presents familiar things, concepts, or experiences in a strange or unfamiliar way. This is done to encourage readers to think from a fresh perspective. Example: Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn "The day I met my husband, I was a freshly scrubbed blank slate. It was a bright new notebook, and he promised to fill its pages." In the above example, the concept of identity is presented in an unfamiliar way. 10. Rhetorical questions Rhetorical questions are a writing technique in which a question is asked without the expectation of an answer. Instead, rhetorical questions encourage the reader to consider the implied answer or emphasize a point. Rhetorical questions are also one of the persuasive techniques in writing that challenge the readers' assumptions. Example: Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë "Do you think I am an automaton?—a machine without feelings? and can bear to have my morsel of bread snatched from my lips, and my drop of living water dashed from my cup? Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little, I am soulless and heartless? Through these questions, Jane strongly challenges any assumptions that she doesn't care and is unemotional. Now let's understand one of the lesser-known descriptive writing techniques in detail! 11. Polysyndeton Polysyndeton is a literary device in which coordinating conjunctions (such as "and," "but," "or," "no," "for," "yet," and "so") are used repeatedly. This creates a rhythmic, repetitive, and emphatic effect. Example: Anxious People by Fredrik Backman "And Zara wanted to scream and she wanted to cry and she wanted to hit something, but most of all she wanted someone to tell her what to do." Now let's understand one of the best writing techniques and strategies to create memorable characters and settings! 12. Periphrasis Periphrasis is a literary device in which a simple, direct concept or idea is expressed in a more complex, roundabout way using more words. It is often used to add descriptive detail, create a specific tone, or avoid using a common or straightforward term. Example: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen "Mr. Collins was not a sensible man, and the deficiency of nature had been but little assisted by education or society." Also read: How to Create a Memorable Protagonist (7 Expert Tips) 13. Second-person point of view The second-person point of view is a technique in which the narrator addresses the reader directly, using pronouns such as "you," "your," and "yours." This is one of the popular methods of writing where the reader becomes a character in the story. The narrator speaks to the reader as if they are experiencing the events firsthand. Example: The Catcher in the Rye by J.D Salinger "If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth." 14. Third-person point of view The third-person point of view is a writing method in which the narrator is not a character within the story. Instead, the narrator is an outside observer who refers to characters using pronouns such as "he," "she," "they," or "it." This is also one of the common narrative writing techniques used in Young Adult fiction. Example: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald He paced back and forth, his shadow a restless phantom against the wall. Gatsby, his mind awlwhirl with anticipation and dread, checked the clock for the hundredth time. Daisy's arrival was imminent, and with it, the potential resurrection of a love long lost. Now let's explore one of the best techniques of writing to enhance pacing, show conflict, and build an engaging climax! 15. Asyndeton Asyndeton is a literary device in which conjunctions (such as "and," "but," "or," "for," "no," "so," and "yet") are deliberately not mentioned. This technique creates a more rapid, rhythmic, and emphatic effect. Example: The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe "The fever took him quickly, a searing heat that swept through his body and consumed him. Delirious, he saw faces swirling above him, heard whispers turning to screams, and felt the icy grip of fear. He was lost, drifting, sinking into the abyss." How to select the best writing techniques? The following are important factors to consider while selecting the best writing techniques: Purpose: Determine whether your purpose is to inform, describe, entertain, promote something, persuade someone, or give information. The writing techniques will change, depending on the purpose. For example, periphrasis can be used if you want to describe something. Audience: Identify the age, geographical location, gender, and interests of the target audience. This will help to determine the writing techniques you should use. Context: Select the writing style based on whether the context is academic, professional, creative, online, or offline. For academic writing, use techniques that ensure formal language, for professional writing, use techniques ensuring conciseness and clarity. Consider your strengths: Determine your writing style and choose techniques that align with your strengths. For example, if your writing style is creative, you can experiment with literary devices like Simile, Metaphor, etc. Experiment and revise: You can also research and experiment with other writing techniques like Onomatopoeia, Satire, Symbolism, Pathetic Fallacy, and Juxtaposition. Dramatic Irony, Soliloquy, Interior Monologue, and Ekphrasis are some other techniques you can experiment with. This concludes our writing techniques list! By exploring and mastering these top 15 writing techniques, you can elevate your work. You can also research more examples of writing techniques to enhance your writing. After you finish writing, the next step is editing. As experts in editing and proofreading services, we can easily refine and polish your text! What did you think about this writing techniques list and examples? Which technique and writing technique examples did you find most useful? Share your thoughts in the comments section! Here are some other useful resources for you: Found this article helpful? 0 Rishi Rishi was a zealous student at IIT Bombay when he realized, firsthand, the power of good language in effective communication. As part of this belief, after a brief stint in a hedge fund, he co-founded PaperTrue in 2014. When you're a writer, you need to know the best strategies to get your reader's attention and hold onto it. The goal is to get them hooked on your content, so they'll want to read more. Only then can you cultivate a relationship that serves you both. So, how do you do that (without actually hypnotizing them)? You learn different writing strategies, applied to advantage by the pros, and work on making them your own. The first question to answer is, "What is a writing strategy?" A strategy is a general plan — or set of plans — you make to achieve a goal. So, a writing strategy involves tactics you use to ensure your writing meets the goals you've set for it. Your number one goal is to capture and hold onto your reader's interest. Your related goals will depend on the overall purpose of your writing: To sell something (and make money) To motivate your reader to do something To evoke an emotional response (pathos, anger, levity, etc.) While the reason for your writing goal can vary, the goal itself does not. And the sooner you learn how to put the following 15 writing strategies into practice, the sooner your audience will grow. No doubt, you've already become familiar with some of these time-tested examples of writing strategies. It's what you don't (yet) know that can hold you back and limit your influence. That's about to change. Your first sentence should hook your reader and make them curious enough to read the second sentence, which should lead them irresistibly to the third, and so on. That first sentence should grab hold of their interest and get them thinking, "I need to know what will come next." Your entire opening hook doesn't have to consist of one sentence, but a few sentences at most should suffice to get under your reader's skin. Strong hooks can include any of the following: Probing or rhetorical questions Quotes Statistics Anecdotes Bold claims Example: "Did you know every year the amount of garbage we toss into the ocean is three times the weight of fish caught?" (statistic) Your first paragraph should clearly communicate the direction of your piece. And it should give the reader a reason to care about it. They should want to know more and feel compelled to see what you'll reveal. Give them a reason to feel invested. Otherwise, they might bookmark your page to "save it for later," but we all know what that usually means. It's the internet version of walking away. Example: "As a lifelong crabber (that is, one who catches crabs, not a chronic complainer), I can tell you that anyone who has patience and a great love for the river is qualified to join the ranks of crabbers. However, if you want your first crabbing experience to be a successful one, you must come prepared." (Mary Zeigler, "How to Catch River Crabs") Come as you are. This is not a place to show off or pretend to be someone else. Try to trick your reader, and they'll most likely leave and never return. So, ix-nay on the bait and switch. Put yourself in the reader's shoes and give them what you know they would want. Be genuine, and show that you care as much about their time as you do about yours. Example: "I haven't wanted to call myself a functional alcoholic. For just a second, the word "functional" makes it easier to accept the word that comes after it. "Then the reality hits: I'm not as functional as I'd like to think. And being an alcoholic means having to give up alcohol..." Design an ideal reader based on what you know — including demographic info (married/single, age range, interests, culture, politics, geographical area). Then write as if addressing a respected friend. Don't assume your reader can't figure stuff out, but don't use ten-dollar words when one-dollar words will do. Write the way you would talk in a friendly conversation. Example: Ideal reader Alexis is a health-conscious socialite in her mid-twenties. Her interests include public relations, fashion, and social media (mainly Instagram). She reads to stay well-informed about things that matter to her. She's visually oriented, but your own creative spin on it to make it stand out. What can you bring to the subject that few or no one else can? Make the subject more personal to your reader, and your content will be timeless. Example: "It's happened! The results of the 2020 election are finally in, and people around the world (not to mention over half the U.S. population) are celebrating, crying tears of relief, and dancing in the streets for joy. "So, what comes next? Specifically, what comes next for you?" Know your message and express it with clarity, simplicity, and elegance. Every thought should be organic, and every sentence's meaning should be unmistakable. Confuse your reader, and they're far more likely to stop reading and move on. Don't make them work to decipher what you're trying to say. It's not their job. Examples of strategies for writing with clarity: Know your message, and write with intention. Know your audience and speak their language. Define your (unfamiliar) terms. Use your punctuation wisely (especially commas). Use strong, active, and carefully-chosen verbs. If all you're giving your reader is a long succession of paragraphs with some subheads thrown in, consider adding some relevant visuals — images, graphs, infographics, tables, diagrams, etc. Give their brain a brief but meaningful eye-candy break. By varying the delivery of helpful information, you hit "refresh" on their attention and keep them curious. Examples of effective visuals: Infographics or diagrams to visually illustrate your points Images that set the mood and make your content more relatable Graphs and tables to show organized and relevant data. Include an interesting quiz/test for your reader to take, with a result they can share. Give them a chance to test their knowledge while they learn something new. Quizzes that give them a result they can feel good about and make your content more memorable. Challenge your reader with questions that make them think, and they're more likely to respect and remember you. Examples of quiz ideas: "How compatible are you and your partner?" "How much do you know about climate change?" "What crystals are best for your personality?" Throw in some juicy facts to make your readers think, "Wow! I didn't know that." Keep them short and easy to remember and make sure they add value to your whole piece. It should feel organic — not like it came out of nowhere. Your reader shouldn't have to wonder if they accidentally clicked on a different link. Examples: Surprising statistics about bullying to reconsider "zero-tolerance" policies. The truth about "German" chocolate cake in a post on a beloved family recipe. Daniel Radcliffe's allergy to his Harry Potter glasses in a post on unusual allergies. Quotes from well-known authorities can add credibility to your piece if it bolsters one of the points you're making. Depending on your quote choice, it can also add a touch of humor or pathos to draw your reader in and encourage a stronger connection. A short, powerful quote can make your work more memorable by association. Examples: Shocking or funny quotes from famous authors in a post on the creative process. Quotes from famous fictional sleuths in a post about cozy mysteries. Quotes from disgruntled politicians in a post about running for office. Another way to make your reader feel more invested in what they're reading is to ask them questions about something that matters to them. Get them thinking about the answer, and they'll be more likely to feel a need to answer it or find the answer in what you've written. And if your answer satisfies them, or if their own answer leads to other meaningful discoveries, they're likely to come back for more. Examples: Questions about your reader's writing process in a post on the same. Questions on your reader's biggest fears in a post about anxiety Questions on favorite scents and related memories in a post about candles. 15. Tell your reader a story. Everyone loves a good story. Introduce a compelling story early on in your post (or chapter), and your reader is much more likely to keep reading. Your story should closely relate to the rest of your content, so it can communicate useful information while it entertains your audience. Keep it short, relevant, and memorable. Examples: A brief table that teaches a moral lesson A brief story from your past that illustrates a point you're trying to make A short, funny story that leads to a surprising revelation Now that you're more familiar with the 15 best writing strategies, how will this change the way you write from now on? What strategies will you implement in your next project? The best part about using these strategies is their potential for making the writing itself more enjoyable and fulfilling for you — as well as more engaging for your reader. May your skill and influence grow as you put these strategies to work.