

Writing and Drawing as Art Forms

*How to Express Yourself in Articles, Books, and
Drawings On- and Off-line!*

Owen Jones



1. Welsh Writer's Top 5 Tips for Aspiring Writers

1. The first rule, above all else, keep writing! Even if you only write a few paragraphs a day, keep writing to train your mind to get into the zone! It's like learning to play an instrument – frequent practise is better than infrequent long sessions.

I write because I love words, and I love stories. They are my lifeblood. I write for myself, and for others. I write to express myself, and to share my thoughts and feelings. I write to entertain, and to educate. I write to inspire, and to motivate. I write to heal, and to understand. I write to connect, and to communicate. I write to create, and to discover. I write to live, and to learn. I write to laugh, and to cry, and I write to make money too. You don't need to know why you want to write, just be glad that you are being inspired to be creative.

2. Write every day.

“Write every day. If you do not write at least one hundred words a day, you will never become a writer. You must write every day, even if it is only five minutes. It does not matter how good or bad your work is; just write something”

Stephen King

3. Read widely.

Reading widely helps you develop your own style and voice as a writer. You should read fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and plays. You should also read magazines, newspapers, blogs, and websites. This gives you an idea of what other people are doing with language.

4. Don't worry about grammar or punctuation. All writers develop their own style. Most people find it best not to break the flow when writing. Consequently, they only start to concern themselves with grammar and spelling in the editing phase. I, personally, like to check words as I writing, if I'm unsure, because otherwise I'll worry about it until I find out. Therefore, if my word-processor indicates a misspelling, I look it up immediately.

If you're not sure how to start writing, try starting with a short story. Write something that you would enjoy reading. Then write another one. And then another. Eventually, you'll find yourself writing longer pieces.

5. Be yourself.

Don't worry about what other people think. They will either love you or hate you. Either way, they won't affect your life. So just do what makes you happy. There are so many people in the world that someone will like what you write no matter what the subject... and vice-versa.

Best Advice Ever

The best advice I ever received was a short line at the bottom of my desk diary the very first year I started writing my first novel:

“If you want to be a writer, write for ten minutes every day”.

It sounded silly, but over time I realised that often I could not write for ten minutes every day; and it became more and ever more frequently the case.

Why? Because I would get so carried away with what I was writing that thirty minutes, an hour or several hours would fly past without my realising it. In the beginning, ten minutes can sometimes feel daunting, but with practise, you will find that it is not long enough.

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