

Rules of writing

1. Show don't tell

"The man was angry" could become "the man clenched his fists and hissed beneath his breath"

Showing allows the reader to follow the author into the movement, to see and feel and experience what the author has experienced.

2. All adverbs must die

Concentrate on the importance of giving the power to the verb

Tips:

1. Use dialogue

Dialogue allows the reader to experience the scene as if they were there.

2. Use sensory language

In order for the readers to fully experience what you're writing about, they need to be able to see, hear, taste, smell, and touch the world around them. Try to use language that incorporates several senses, not just sight.

3. Be descriptive

But being descriptive is more than just inserting a string of descriptive words. It's carefully choosing the right words and using them sparingly to convey your meaning.

USE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

E.g.: cradling the guitar in his arms like a lover

4. Be specific, not vague

Frequently, you will turn in essays with vague, fuzzy language. I'm not sure if you think this type of writing sounds more academic, but all it really does is frustrate the reader.

5. Effective dialogue

This is an essential part of both fiction and creative nonfiction writing. Good dialogue can be tricky. It needs to move the story forward and reveal important character information without seeming artificial. It needs to seem realistic without actually being realistic. It should follow some simple grammatical rules. Dialogue should be enclosed within quotation marks. Each new line of dialogue is indented, and a new paragraph should be started every time a new person is speaking. It should be concise. Don't go overboard with backstory. Don't try to be too realistic. Don't use too much dialogue. Don't get too crazy with dialogue tags. It should be broken up with action. Keep in mind that characters fidget, wash the dishes, pace. Don't forget that your characters aren't static.