

USE *your* WORDS

✧ *A how-to guide* ✧



EXPLORE, EMBRACE & SHARE
YOUR OWN UNIQUE VOICE
THROUGH WRITING AND DIGITAL MEDIA

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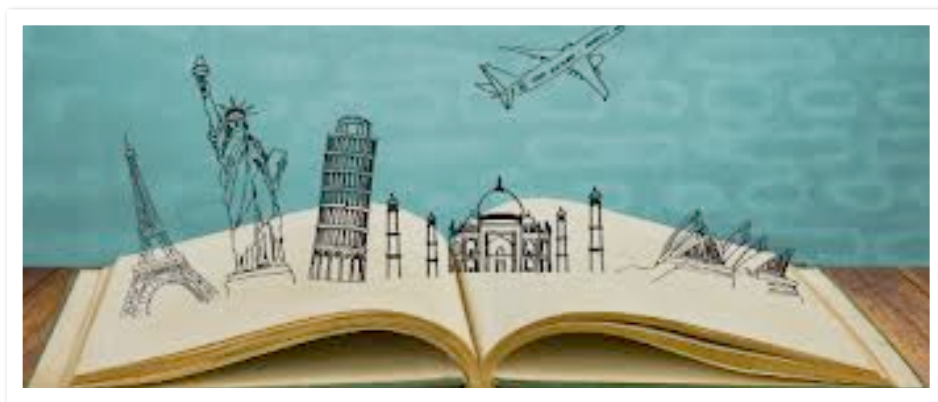


Become a better writer!

If you grew up the way I did as an avid reader then you most likely spent your time enrapt in and studying the words of others. It wasn't until beginning this course that I actually began to consider my own writing style, unique voice and the ways in which my words could make an impact on others and the world around me. Through blogging and creating group presentations this semester, I have embraced my individuality and learned that I love to share my opinions and perspectives on things.

I created this E-Book in hopes to encourage others to do the same -to ***use their words*** and bring more beauty into the world through writing and the use of digital media.

One idea that has changed the way I feel about digital media, is the idea that we all have a unique voice, one that is worth hearing. What I mean by that is we all have something, beautiful and personal to offer the creative world around us. We need not be intimidated or feel unworthy of participating. We must simply learn how to channel our individuality and express it whether it is through writing, visual art, dance, music, theatre, etc...





4 things to keep in mind!

It is easy to become overwhelmed when first deciding to put yourself out there in the world of digital media and online sharing. I've put together a list of four simple things to keep in mind and to help move you along on your endeavor.

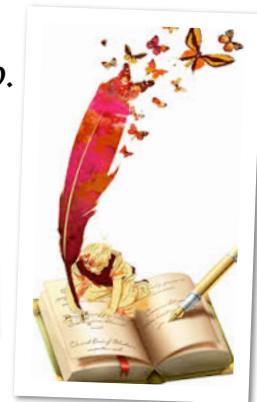
1. BE BRAVE
2. DO IT FOR YOU
3. BE HONEST
4. BE CREATIVE

1. Be Brave

Face your fear. Size it up. Then smash it to a million little pieces! There is no room for it. In order to be able to fully express yourself you must let go of inhibitions and the anxiety of your work not being accepted.

Blogger Andrew Sullivan touches on the point of letting go in his post “Why I Blog”, he explains that as a blogger “you piece together a narrative that was never intended as one, it seems—and is—more truthful...Logs require a letting-go of narrative because they do not allow for a knowledge of the ending. So they have plot as well as dramatic irony—the reader will know the ending before the writer did.”

Let your work speak for itself. *Be Brave. Keep Calm and Let go.*



2. Do it for You

Results take time... Let the feeling of having created something out of nothing be enough to sustain you. remain positive even when you aren't getting feedback. Yes your audience is very important and essential to your writing but always keep in mind that writing is your very own adventure. Others can come along for the ride if they'd like, but at the end of the day its still and will always be *your* story.

3. Be Honest

No one likes a faker. Honesty will not only get you a larger fan base but it will also promote fluidity to your writing. When one is speaking or writing the truth there is no need to second guess or question anything. A good tip to writing honestly is: Take it easy with the declarations. What I mean is... do not chose a definite side or position regarding something that could quite possibly change in the future. For example if beginning a blog and you have yet to decide on how to categorize its content perhaps label it "random" or "randomness" rather than picking something that might be too narrow. If you name it something like "nature" or "food" then you have limited yourself. Avoid the black and white areas until you are experienced enough and can handle the limitations. Embrace the gray! :)

4. Be Creative

Tap into your creativity! This goes along with having courage and trying new things. Here are 3 inspiring tips that can help you be more creative with your writing and digital media.

-Paint short stories or poetry onto canvas instead of just typing them. Take a photo and post it somewhere on networking platform but also hang it somewhere to be seen by friends and family. They'll love it!

-Read something you wrote over a video you've taken with your phone. This will add more of a visual aspect to your words. There are video apps such as 8mm that transform bland footage into really interesting short movies.

-Take photos of handwritten pieces and post those on your blog instead of simply typed content.

