

### Writer's Self-Audit

**Directions:** Think about yourself as a writer, and try to come up with the most complete answers possible to each question.

My Questions:	Your Answers:
<p>What is your first memory of writing? How old were you? What did you write? How did you like it? Who did you show it to? What did he/she/they say about it?</p>	<p>When I was in fifth grade, I remember an assignment we had to re-write/continue a fairy tale. I was obsessed with <i>Robin Hood Prince of Thieves</i> at the time, so I chose Robin Hood, and opened with a quote from a conversation in the movie between Robin and Marian. She had asked him what his future plans were, and teased him by asking if he had a grander scheme in mind. He replied, "No, a simpler one." Then my story was about the simple happily ever after between Robin and Marian. I really don't remember much about the story, and I'm not sure if the teacher even read it, but I read it to my grandpa, and he was pretty into it. I vividly remember the discussion we had about whether the first word of the quote would be "know" or "no".</p>
<p>Tell something of your own history of writing in school. Do you remember particular moments, pieces of writing, periods when writing was important?</p>	<p>I don't think I did much writing in school until seventh grade when my teacher got super stoked about writing workshop and decided we were going to write a paragraph every day. Her enthusiasm was infectious, but I don't actually remember writing that much for her. Interestingly, this is the teacher I did my student teaching with. By 9th grade, I sort of thought of myself as a writer because words were important to me, and putting them on paper somehow made me feel like I had depth, but I didn't write stories, so I felt like a fraud.</p>
<p>In particular, what teacher helped you the most with writing? In what ways? Tell stories.</p>	<p>It wasn't until 11th grade English with Mr. Ykimoff, when I felt like a teacher really read my work for the first time, and he responded so positively... Then I felt like there was real value in what I had to say, and my perspective was interesting and intelligent. He was the person I went to when I decided I might want to be an English teacher... Ironic, since he left the classroom for administration at the end of the year I had him for English 11.</p>
<p>Stand back from yourself and describe yourself as a character who reads. What does this character choose to read, when, where, why, how?</p>	<p>Curled up on her right side, she grips the kindle with her left hand. She holds it close to her face, not so much because of poor eyesight as because of a desire to create a kind of tunnel vision by blocking out everything that isn't the words on the screen.</p> <p>She is hitting a slump in terms of reading. She is out of books by her favorite author, so she searches online for recommendations of authors that are similar to the one she enjoys. She has found a few here and there, but the search continues because no one seems to be filling the Mary Kay Andrews-shaped hole in her life.</p>

<p>Who reads your writing? Do you like to share?</p>	<p>Recently, all of the Stockbridge Community could have been reading an article I wrote for Stockbridge Community News. It's currently posted online, and I believe it will be featured in the upcoming printed paper. Mostly, I write now to create model pieces for my students. I love when this is something I HAVE to do because currently it's so hard to make time for writing in my life, so when I give myself this assignment, it's like it gives me a chance to strut my stuff. I LOOOOOOVE sharing my writing. I think my writing is impressive (probably only to me) so I like the chance to show the world what I can do with words. Particularly because I so often sound like an idiot when I'm talking... But when I'm writing, words never fail me. Every word I've even known is at the tip of my fingers at the exact moment I need it. I'm NEVER like that in speaking. So I guess I feel like writing gives me the chance to prove I'm not a moron.</p>
<p>What do you think makes writing good? What does one need to be a good, successful writer? Can everyone be a good writer? To answer this, start by thinking about your favorite authors and what you like about them.</p>	<p>Good writing is vivid and descriptive without being overdone and wordy. To be a good writer, one needs two things: first, one needs to pay attention to what is going on around them; second, one simply needs to write. Sometimes I post little life observations or experiences on Facebook. In the years I've been doing this, their popularity has increased. I don't think it's because they're particularly good or funny or moving... It's because original content is now a rarity on social media, so people love it when they see it.</p>
<p>Where do your most creative ideas come from?</p>	<p>Uggggghhh.... The depths of.... I don't know... This is the hardest part for me. I have tons of quirky little details for stories, but I don't have like big-picture plot sequence ideas... I use a lot of prompts to get me going.</p>
<p>How do you get started?</p>	<p>I'm usually motivated by a deadline.</p>
<p>What keeps you going? What stops you?</p>	<p>Once I start, I feel like my writing has its own momentum, and I'm usually able to keep going until the piece reaches its natural conclusion.... Or when it's time for bed.</p>
<p>Where are you when you write your best and what are you doing?</p>	<p>I feel more philosophical at night... But that's a little dangerous because some ideas that seem deep and brilliant at night look absolutely ridiculous in the light of day.</p>
<p>How much do you revise?</p>	<p>I revise a lot because I feel so attached to my words once they're out there. I also believe in the age-old adage-- writing/revision is never really finished, you just stop at some point.</p>