

Self-Exploration for Writers

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7. My Writing Skills

Write down your responses to these questions in detail:

What writing and editing skills do I have presently?

What writing have I done in the past? (Include even small items, such as letter/email writing, business writing, blogging, how-to articles, school assignments, etc.)

What specialized skills do I need to develop for the format(s) (fiction, nonfiction, academic, poetry, drama, etc.) in which I want to write?

What specific skills do I need to develop for the genre (romance, adventure, memoir, creative nonfiction, specific type of poetry, etc.) in which I want to write?

How can I develop my skills: courses, writing group participation, conferences, read books on writing, what else?

What small-size writing projects can I do that will help me develop and practice my writing skills before I take on larger-scale writing projects?

Putting your exploration into practice: Write, in a sentence or two, a specific writing goal you have for yourself. Then, using your notes above, create a personalized and detailed plan for how you will develop the writing skills you need to fulfill that goal.

Don't forget to place this exercise in your "Self-Exploration for Writers" binder.