

Self-Exploration for Writers

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6. Writing Formats and Focuses

Do you have a particular topic you want to write about and/or a specific genre in which you want to write? Why have you chosen that format and focus? What are you doing to prepare? Jot down your thoughts about:

Fiction: genres and lengths (novels, short stories, flash fiction, etc.):

Nonfiction: topics/subjects and formats (books, workbooks, etc.)

Articles: topics and types of publications (blogs, magazines, ezines, anthologies, etc.):

Poetry: what kind? How published? (books, anthologies, journals, etc.):

Podcasts, radio, other audio broadcasts:

Video, play, or film scripts:

Video game scripts:

Other writing formats and focuses:

Putting your exploration into practice:

Which category of writing formats and focuses are you most interested in doing? Take a full day (or even a weekend) “retreat” to explore that format and focus. Check it out wherever it might apply: online, in your local library and bookstores, on television, at the movie theatre, on YouTube, courses, and online/video games. Be open-minded; could you extend the format and focus you have chosen? For example, could a book someday become a series, a movie, a video game, a TV series, a course? Think about that, and plan how you can develop your original format to make it more easily adaptable to other formats and focuses in future. Or perhaps your original idea might actually work better in a different format? What do you think?

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