

DONE --More Tips and Tactics Supplement Thomas Wayne King October 1, 2022

When you are nearing done, try some of these simple tips in your final checks, edits and polishes.

V-A-K-T-O-E-E SCAN: VISUAL AUDITORY KINESTHETIC TACTILE OLFACTORY EMOTIONS ENVIRONMENT

DANGLERS: Check for word 1–3-word Dangers at bottom of each paragraph. Tuck em up by changing and deleting words.

INTENSIFIERS: Weaken your work: at all, just, so, super, too, very, absolutely, completely, really, totally, –ly words, more...

TIME: *Let your work age.* At least overnight. 72 hours better. Longer if you can. Time away helps. You'll have new eyes.

VERB AND MODIFIER SCANS: Check all. Learn to “stack” each verb and modifier you use re Up/Down intensity.

Verb & Modifier Stacking. Develop your own thoughtful verb and modifier stack for every action word & descriptor you write. Stacking is useful in your copy editing and proof reading. Inspiration: NHL broadcaster, Mike “Doc” Emrick, used 153 different verbs for puck movement in one game. www.thebiglead.com

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|--|---------------------------------|
| SLAMMED | |
| FOUGHT | |
| FORCED | (Increasing intensity/activity) |
| WRENCHED | |
| BLASTED | |
| WRANGLLED | |
| WRESTED | |
| WRESTLED | |
| DRAGGED | BLOOMING |
| WALTZED | LUSH |
| <i>TOM PUSHED HIS LAWN MOWER THROUGH</i> | VERDANT |
| GUIDED | GREEN FOREST TRAILS. |
| PASSED | SHADOWED |
| SLIPPED | LABORINTHINE |
| SLID | OVERGROWN |
| FINESSED | |
| DRIFTED | |
| GLIDED | |
| BUZZED | (Decreasing intensity/activity) |
| BREEZED | |
| BLEW | |
| WILLED | |

Search: Dryer’s English, gonaturalenglish.com, oneminuteenglish.org, englishpost.org, relatedwords.org, Grammarly.com

Simplicity is the Highest Form of Sophistication. - Michelangelo

Modern Standard American English linguistic advantages: Simple. Synonym-rich. Flexible. Variable. Global.

Check These Resources:

10 Pieces of Advice Every Writer Should Ignore. LitReactor. Valuable, alternative views on tips. Well worth reading & considering! www.lireactor.com/columns/10-pieces-of-advice-every-writer-should-ignore 1/28/20.

Doc Emrick’s 153 Verbs to Describe Puck Movement www.thebiglead.com/posts/doc-emrick-used

St. Croix Writers www.stcroixwriters.blogspot.com FB & Blog. Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am. SSSC. All genres.

Lake Superior Writers www.lakesuperiorwriters.org Duluth Based. Fosters vibrant Northland literary community.

Chippewa Valley Writers Guild www.cvwritersguild.org CVWG supports writers via array of great activities.

UW-Superior Writing Program www.uwsuper.edu/...writing_majorminor1750105 Promotes potential & learning.

Northland College Writers www.northland.edu/academics/undergraduate/writing Courses, workshops, readings....

Wisconsin Writers Association www.WiWrite.org Education, networking, marketing for writers of all genres.

Writers Write www.writerswrite.com Professional resource for writers, est 1997. Articles, news, jobs, markets...

Online Etymology Dictionary. www.etamonline.com Word origins, history, meaning. Fascinating, useful, fun...

Google Ngram. Frequency of Printed English Word Usage. www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Ngram_Viewer

Google Gboard. Keyboards for typing in over 600 languages www.support.google.com/gboard

Watch out for: Over Editing, Improper Planning, Not Priority, Wrong Story www.writingcooperative.com 7/22

Consider: Do you have a Plan, Team, and Rhythm/Habit? www.thewritepractice.com 7/22. Also Money & Funding?

Tips & Tactics: Have Deadlines. Stay Obligated. Have Critique Partner/Group for Neutral Feedback. Rest. Eat. Write Rested. Daily. Not too long. Maybe 1-5 pp, 1-3 hrs. Try variety. Stop when tired. Repeat. Try:

1. Let words, sentences flow. Guilt-free 1st/2nd efforts good. Create. Ignore edits, form, spelling, grammar.
2. Type/write first w/NO edits. Turn off/ignore/cover monitor. Guilt-free writing...to start.
3. Block? Write longhand w/o looking. Printing. Cursive. Draw sketches or little picture/diagrams if words don't come. You'll create/remember.
4. Trust period and comma for main punctuation. Use all others sparingly.
5. Use Style guides for learning. Then break the rules. But keep it all consistent. English has lots of synonyms and parallel meaning forms.
6. Real communication in your writing beats perfection. A sentence is communicative effort that readily conveys meaning. More important than exact grammar.
7. Play with words, pronunciations, inflections. Have fun with words all day long. Writing is also thinking about writing and your tools to prep.
8. Use thesaurus, etymology sources. Notice origins, derivations. Attend to what other languages say.
9. Imitate, parody, satire other authors for practice. Read, write, listen to many you like and don't like...
10. Find your rhythm, flow. Envision plot or coverage arc. Draw out. Use notes, outlines and/or software.
11. Read your work out aloud. Always. Have others read to you. Don't ever trust spellcheck. End for day in middle of page/thought so can pick it up tomorrow.
12. Do prosodic features w/o punctuation. Watch out for catastrophic meaning, spelling and punctuation errors. "Let's eat Grandma!" "Come to school open house! Watch as our children cook and serve their parents."
13. Short, clear efficient writing is best. Use one word instead of 2-3. Clear syntax. "I only have eyes for you."
14. Fiction needs compelling plot/action, not just character/scene development.
15. Expository prose must have organized steps, details. Clarify what you write and think so others can follow. Use rhythm, beats, flow and order.
16. Read your older works. Tweak, shorten, and amplify. Learn from them. Edit. Refine. Don't overdo.
17. Allow at least 72 hours after final draft before you submit your work to anyone. Consider it done unless you hear further. Then Let It Be Done.
18. Don't reread too much. That can damper your initial magic, induce errors, confusions.
19. When it feels done, it likely is. Finish with energy & conviction. Have others read. Send to editors. Let them read *your & their* works to you. Adapt. Stay obligated. Listen. Refine. Next project, please.

Folk Wisdom & Ideas: Becoming Is Better Than Being. Embrace the Process, Not the Product. If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It. Avoid the Perfection Infection. Binge Write and Snack Write. To Finish, First Begin. Run Hard and Rest Hard. Accept Shades of Done. Use It or Lose It. Look It Up. Done Is Better Than Perfect. You Didn't Come This Far to Only Come This Far. Read, Listen, Learn. Love Words and Love Sentences.

"Forget talent. If you have it, fine. Use it. If you don't have it, it doesn't matter, as habit is more dependable than inspiration, and continued learning is more dependable than talent."

Octavia Butler, [Blood Child: and Other Stories](#)