

Code Your Way Up: Rise to the Challenge of Software Leadership

New Writing Class! Learn how to Write More Faster in our upcoming 2-part class taught by author J.D. Edwin. Learn more and sign up here.

Want to become a better writer? Perhaps you want to write novels, or maybe you just want to get better grades in your essay writing assignments, or maybe you'd like to start a popular blog.

If you want to write better, you need practice. But what does a writing practice actually look like? In this post, I'm going to give you everything you need to kick off your writing practice and become a better writer faster.

What Is Writing Practice? Writing practice is a method of becoming a better writer that usually involves reading lessons about the writing process, using writing prompts, doing creative writing exercises, or finishing writing pieces, like essays, short stories, novels, or books. The best writing practice is deliberate, timed, and involves feedback.

How Do You Practice Writing?

This was the question I had when I first started The Write Practice in 2011. I knew how to practice a sport and how to practice playing an instrument. But for some reason, even after studying it in college, I wasn't sure how to practice writing.

I set out to create the best writing practice I could. The Write Practice is the result.

I found that the best writing practice has three aspects:

Deliberate. Writing whatever you feel like may be cathartic, but it's not an effective way to become a better writer. You'll get better faster by instead practicing a specific technique or aspect of the writing process each time you sit down to write.

This is why we have a new lesson about the writing process each day on The Write Practice, followed by a practice prompt at the end so you can put what you learned to use immediately.

Timed. It's no secret writers struggle with focus. There are just too many interesting distractions—Facebook, email, Kim Kardashian's Instagram feed (just kidding about that last one, sort of)—and writing is just too hard sometimes.

Setting a timer, even for just fifteen minutes, is an easy and effective way to stay focused on what's important.

This is why in our writing practice prompt at the end of each post we have a time limit, usually with a link to an online egg timer, so you can focus on deliberate practice without getting distracted.

Feedback. Getting feedback is one of the requirements to deliberately practice writing or any other craft. Feedback can look like listening to the reactions of your readers or asking for constructive criticism from editors and other writers.

“ Good writing isn’t done in a vacuum. Your readers will teach you to become a better writer.

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This is why we ask you to post your writing practice in the comments section after each lesson, so that you can get feedback from other writers in The Write Practice community. It's also why we set up The Write Practice Pro community, to provide critique groups for writers to get feedback on their finished writing pieces.

[Our 100+ Best Creative Writing Practice Exercises and Lessons](#)

Now that you know how we practice writing at The Write Practice, here are our best writing practice lessons and creative writing exercises:

[All-Time, Top 10 Writing Lessons and Exercises](#)

These ten posts are our most viewed articles to boost your writing practice:

1. [How To Use Neither, Nor, Or, and Nor Correctly](#). Even good writers struggle figuring out when to use neither/nor and either/or. In this, the most popular post on The Write Practice, our copy-queen Liz Bureman settles the confusion once and for all. [Click to continue to the writing exercise](#)
2. [Do You Use Quotation Marks or Italics for Song and Album Titles?](#) The wrong punctuation can make any writer look silly. If you've ever been confused about whether to use quotes or italics for song titles and album titles, this post will clear things up. [Click to continue to the writing exercise](#)
3. [Ten Secrets To Write Better Stories](#). How does Pixar manage to create such great stories, year after year? And how do you write a good story? In this post, I distill everything I've learned about how to write a good story into ten

tips. Click to continue to the writing exercise

4. How To Use an Ellipsis Correctly. Judging by my Facebook feed, most people are using ellipses incorrectly, or at least overusing them. Here's how to use those trio of periods correctly in your writing. Click to continue to the writing exercise

5. 35 Questions To Ask Your Characters From Marcel Proust. To get to know my characters better, I use a list of questions known as the Proust Questionnaire, made famous by French author, Marcel Proust. Click to continue to the writing exercise

6. How a Scene List Can Change Your Novel-Writing Life. Creating a scene list changed my novel-writing life, and doing the same will change yours too. Includes examples of the scene lists from famous authors. Click to continue to the writing exercise

7. Why You Need to be Using the Oxford Comma. Most people I've met have no idea what the Oxford comma is, but it's probably something that you have used frequently in your writing. Click to continue to the writing exercise

8. How to Conduct an Interview Like a Journalist. The interview is the most-used tool in a journalist's bag. But that doesn't mean novelists, bloggers, and even students can't and don't interview people. Here's how to conduct a great interview. Click to continue to the writing exercise

9. Why You Should Try Writing in Second Person. You've probably used first person and third person point-of-view already. But what about second person? This post explains three reasons why you should try writing from this point-of-view. Click to continue to the writing exercise

10. The Secret to Show, Don't Tell. You've heard the classic writing rule, "Show. Don't Tell." Every writing blog ever has talked about it, and for good reason. Showing, for some reason, is really difficult. Click to continue to the writing exercise.

Get a Free Book Idea Worksheet to plan your story in a sentence: This worksheet from our Write Plan planner will help you identify the core elements of your story. This worksheet from our Write Plan planner will help you identify the

core elements of your story.

[Click here to download the free book idea worksheet.](#)

12 Exercises and Lessons To Become a Better Writer

How do you become a better writer? These posts share our best advice:

6 Lessons and Exercises from Great Writers

“If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” Isaac Newton

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If you want to be a writer, learn from the great writers who have gone before you:

12 Genre and Format Specific Writing Lessons and Exercises

Here are our best writing lessons for specific types of writing, including essays, screenplays, memoir, short stories, children's books, and humor writing:

14 Characterization Lessons and Exercises

Good characters are the foundation of good fiction. Here are our best lessons to create better characters:

15 Grammar Lessons and Exercises

I talk to so many writers, some of whom are published authors, who struggle with grammar. Here are our best writing lessons on grammar:

4 Journalism Lessons and Exercises

Want to be a journalist? Or even use techniques from journalism to improve your novel, essay, or screenplay? Here are our best writing lessons on journalism:

16 Plot and Structure Lessons and Exercises

Want to write a good story? Our top plot and structure lessons will help:

6 Lessons and Exercises to Beat Writer's Block

Writer's block is real, and it can completely derail your writing. Here are six lessons to get writing again:

7 Literary Technique Lessons and Exercises

These writing and storytelling techniques will teach you a few tricks of the trade you may not have discovered before:

3 Inspirational Writing Lessons and Exercises

Need some inspiration? Here are three of our most inspiring posts:

3 Publishing Blogging Lessons and Exercises

If you want to get published, these three lessons will help:

11 Writing Prompts

Need inspiration or just a kick in the pants to write. Try one of our top writing prompts:

Is It Time To Begin Your Writing Practice?

It's clear that if you want to become a writer, you need to practice writing. We've created a proven process to practice your writing at The Write Practice, but even if you don't join our community, I hope you'll start practicing

in some way today.

Personally, I waited far too long to start practicing and it set my writing back years.

â€œ Today is the best day for you to practice writing for the first time. Let's do it together.

Tweet this Tweet

How about you? Do you think practicing writing is important? Let me know in the comments section.

Reference

[Civil Engineering PE Breadth Exams - Three Full Exams with Solutions](#)

[Beginner's Guide to Reading Schematics, Fourth Edition](#)