

Artifact

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Editorial

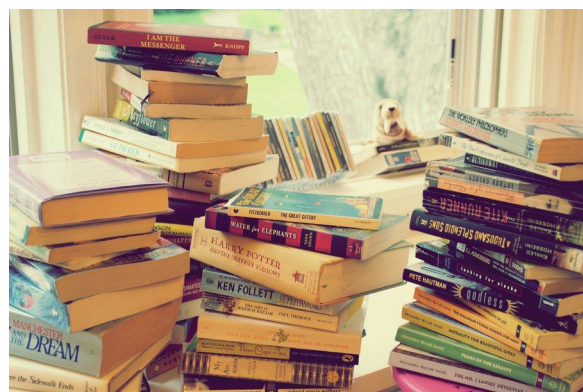
Dear reader,

At our faculty there are a lot of talented students, who took part in the Essay Contest 2017. We want to share with you the best works and hope that the topics we have brought to your attention in the Artifact will shed some jolly light on your life.



Anastasia Lysova,
Editor-in-chief

*The motto of our magazine
suits best this very volume –
“The truth is down here. . .”*



Our creative team:

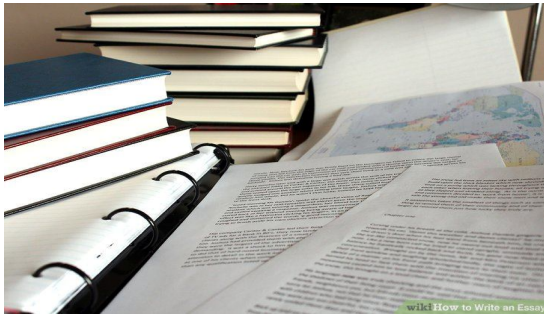


Reviewed by Prof. Phil. D. – Yu. V. Gorshunov

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How to Write an Essay



Throughout your academic career, you will usually be asked to write an essay. You may work on an assigned essay for class, enter an essay contest or write essays for college admissions. This article will show you the writing and revision processes for all types of essays. Then, it will explore how to write narrative, persuasive and expository essays.

1. Research the topic

This step is especially important if your paper is a research paper. Go online, head to the library, search an academic database, or read newspapers. You can also ask a reference librarian.

Know which sources are acceptable to your teacher. Does your teacher want a certain number of primary sources and secondary sources?

Can you use Wikipedia? Wikipedia is often a good starting point for learning about a topic, but many teachers won't let you cite it because they want you to find more authoritative sources. Even if your teacher does not allow Wikipedia, you can still use Wikipedia articles as a starting point. If you have very little background knowledge about your research topic, Wikipedia can be a good place to get a general working knowledge of your research topic and find search terms. The "Works Cited" or "Bibliography" section at the bottom of the page can also be a good starting point for finding reliable sources. However, if your teacher forbids even that much, a normal encyclopedia can serve the same function.

Take detailed notes, keeping track of which facts come from which sources. Write down your sources

in the correct citation format so that you don't have to go back and look them up again later.

Never ignore facts and claims that seem to disprove your original idea or claim. A good essay writer either includes the contrary evidence and shows why such evidence is not valid or alters his or her point of view in light of the evidence.

2. Analyze well-written essays

In your research you'll probably come across really well-written (and not so well-written) arguments about your topic. Do some analysis to see what makes them work.

What claims does the author make?

Why do they sound good? Is it the logic, the sources, the writing, the structure? Is it something else?

What evidence does the author present to you?

Is the logic sound or faulty, and why?

Why is the logic sound? Does the author back up his/her claims with examples that are easy to follow?

3. Brainstorm your own ideas

Surely, you can use the arguments of others to back up what you want to say. However, you need to come up with your original spin on the topic to make it uniquely yours.

Make lists of ideas. You can also try mind mapping.

Take your time. Walk in your neighborhood or local park and think about your topic. Be prepared for ideas to come to you when you least expect them.

4. Pick your thesis statement

Look at the ideas that you generated. Choose one to three of your strongest ideas that support your topic. You should be able to support these ideas with evidence from your research.

Write a thesis statement that summarizes the ideas that you plan to present. Essentially, let the reader know where you're going and why.

A thesis statement should have a narrow focus include both your topic and what you plan to present. For example, "Although Eli Whitney's cotton gin ushered in a new era of American prosperity, it also widened the gap in suffering for African-American slaves, who would soon be more in demand, and more exploited, than ever."

A thesis statement should not ask a question, be written in first person ("I"), roam off-topic or be combative.

5. Plan your essay

Take the thoughts that you brainstormed and assemble them into an outline. Write a topic sentence for your main ideas. Then, underneath, make bullet points and list your supporting evidence. Generally, you want three arguments or pieces of evidence to support each main idea.

6. Write the body of your essay

You do want to think about length here; don't write pages and pages if your teacher wants 5 paragraphs. However, you should freewrite to let your thoughts reveal themselves. You can always make them more concise later.

Avoid sweeping generalizations. Statements such as "_____ is the most important problem facing the world today," can cause your reader to dismiss your position out of hand if he/she disagrees with you. On the other hand, "_____ is a significant global problem" is more accurate.

Don't use "I" statements such as "I think." Likewise, avoid the personal pronouns "you," "we," "my," "your" or "our". Simply stating your argument with supporting facts makes you sound much more authoritative. Instead of writing, "*I found Frum to have a conservative bias,*" tell the reader why your statement is true: "*Frum displays a conservative bias when he writes...*"

7. Come up with a compelling title and introduction

Your title and introduction make people want to read your essay. If your teacher is the audience, then of course your teacher will read the whole piece. However, if you're submitting to an essay contest or writing an essay for college admissions, your title and introduction have to hook the reader if you want to meet your objectives.

Try the inverted pyramid formula. Start off with a very broad description of your topic and gradually narrow it down to your specific thesis statement. Try to use no more than 3 to 5 sentences for short essays, and no more than 1 page for longer essays.

8. Conclude your essay.

Summarize your points and suggest ways in which your conclusion can be thought of in a larger sense.

Answer questions like, "*What are the implications of your thesis statement being true?*" "*What's the next step?*" "*What questions remain unanswered?*"

Your arguments should draw your reader to a natural, logical conclusion. In a sense, you are repackaging your thesis statement in your concluding paragraph by helping the reader to remember the journey through your essay.

Nail the last sentence. If your title and first paragraph make the reader want to read your essay, then your last sentence makes the reader remember you. If a gymnast does a great balance beam routine but falls on the landing, then people forget the routine. Gymnasts need to "stick the landing," and so do essay writers.

THERE IS NO CLOUD WITHOUT A SILVER LINING

Luiza Saifutdinova (group 13)

Have you ever seen a zebra with only white or black stripes? I think this question does not need an answer. Of course, it's impossible. There is no such a magic animal in nature. And now, don't you think the colors of our life are similar to the coloring of this African dweller? There are black and white stripes during all our course of life. Sometimes it seems to us that the black color is the main but it's not so. I can say for sure that the bad is always replaced by the good and luck takes failure's place. Everything is replaceable and removable. Sometimes we don't notice that or don't pay attention to it and then we don't understand the situations when there two colors cross or even connect. One old man said: «The unhappiness is the beginning of happiness». I fully agree with it. Everything has two sides and you are the only person to decide which side is more preferable.

Nobody likes frost. And when the winter comes we start to complain of it and even hate it. We complain of warm clothes, of the wind but when the first snow begins, don't we run outside and have fun like children? Don't we jump and build ice-runs and slides? And then, when December begins, don't we wait for the New Year and the wizard who will make all our wishes come true? Isn't it an example of happiness after a misfortune? And such examples are everywhere: a rainbow after the rain, a snow drop in the flick of snow and bright leaves in the cold autumn.

It's very difficult sometimes to begin a new activity. We don't want to read a new book because it has a huge amount of pages, we don't try to go in sports because we are great lazy-bones and we don't want to study at the university because we think that knowledge will not be necessary in our future. We don't realize that we need just to try. And when we start, we suddenly understand that we don't want to finish reading because all these characters help us find answers to important questions, we lose excess weight after the first

trainings and we get a lot of offers because we are good workers with higher education. It's not so bad, is it?

My favorite fairy tale in my childhood was «The Princess-Frog». Everyone knows this sad story about the princess who was turned into a frog by Koschei. Ivan doesn't listen to his wife and burns her skin and Koschei takes her to his dwelling. Then the main character saves his sweetheart and they live long and happily. And there is a question: if Ivan listened to his wise wife and didn't spoil her skin, would she be free? This act helped her to beat Koschei. It's a very suitable example of the proverb: «There wouldn't be happiness but the unhappiness helped».

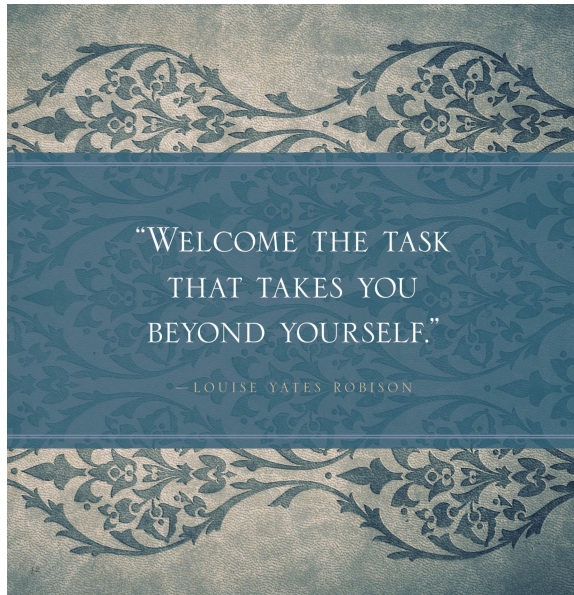
When I was a child I had a lot of toys and my favorite one was a big doll which was able to move. I was very active and in the end I broke it. I cried a lot and my parents presented me with a big tiger which was like a real beast of prey. I was happy.

Sometimes there are situations when we think that it's the end of our life. We worry a lot about simple things and it's not true. We should always hope because there no cloud without a silver lining.



WELCOME THE TASK THAT MAKES YOU GO BEYOND YOURSELF

Alla Lyalina (group 23)



Every day people do lots of different tasks. Beginning with doing their homework and ending creating a new housing construction project. We got used to do something in a certain way. For example, somebody builds a house in a rectangular shape every time but if he gets a task to build in a round shape he will probably refuse.

His explanation may be like this: «I've never done it. I don't even know how to do it».

When I was a first-year student, one of our final exams was a project where we had to score for a movie. I had never done it before and I couldn't even imagine that I would do it someday. To tell the truth, I was very scared. I even wanted to miss that lesson in order not to do it. Thank God! I'm not stupid. One of my thoughts was «Why are you always telling OTHER people to do things which broaden their

minds but not yourself?». I just sat and started to work on that project. I have to admit that it was amazing and my group mates and I had a lot of fun making it. Now I'm not afraid of tasks which make me go beyond myself.

My point of view is that every person has to do something that he/she has never done, because he/she can open some surprising sides of themselves. For example, a well-know American actor Jensen Ackles had always been an actor before he was asked to direct one of the episodes of the TV series called «Supernatural».

And according to his words he didn't want to do it at that time, but then he said to himself «Just try. It won't do you any harm» and he tried. He made an amazing job. Moreover, now he is not only an actor of this TV series but he also directs some of the episodes.

In conclusion I want to say that things which you're not used doing don't have to scare you. They have to excite you. There are always a lot of opportunities to find some new sides in yourself you haven't even imagined about. The world is amazing. Go and try something new.



THERE IS NO CLOUD WITHOUT A SILVER LINING

Albina Zaripova (group 33)



The world we live in is perfect. I suppose there are only a few people who think so. Life of any human being is full of events both positive and negative. We face a huge amount of situations which we feel more or less easier to cope with. But it is up to us to decide whether to go through difficulties with dignity or to give up at first attempt. That is it's only we who decide to live a happy life or not.

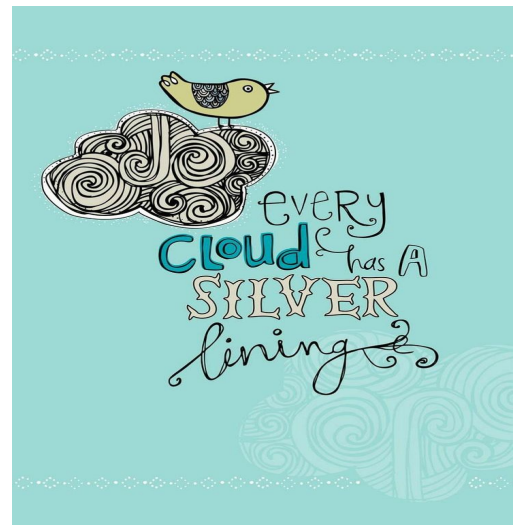
Every day we meet lots of people around us, but can anybody imagine how gloomy and sad many of them are?! Nowadays there are so many tough situations that people have no time and vital energy just to move away from the problems for a while to watch the sun shining, the sky and the cloud that has a silver lining. Difficult times are like dark clouds that sometimes block the sun and it seems light and warm days would never come. If we look at edges of every cloud, it is possible to see the sun shining like a silver lining. In the same way, if we look at challenges more carefully and positively, a wise successful solution will always be found. It is my firm belief that everyone should never give up and keep in mind that «nothing is permanent».

Difficulties are an integral part of our life. In fact, they are not everlasting as many people

believe, but they give us so much: we want to appreciate simple things, understand who people and we are, analyze our mistakes and moreover, we want to enjoy life despite of the challenges. So I believe that thanks to obstacles we are constantly growing, developing and improving our selves.

To my mind, there are two ways of solving problems: one would fight till the finish, the other would give up at the first attempt. I think that people of the second group would never feel happiness and satisfaction of their life. But those who work hard to go through difficulties know the taste of happiness, its value and price. They know life to consist of ups-and-downs and they never lose hope and believe in their success, as the famous proverb has it: «while there is hope there is life».

In conclusion, I want everyone to keep cool, work hard and in any situation not to lose hope just for the reason that our life is in our hands and only we can make it perfect.



If you want something done, ask a busy person

Alex Ruppel (group 55)



Busy people's lives are truly admirable. They have an incredible ability to take advantage of every moment in the day, week, month and year, and the more you throw at them, the more they produce. The famous saying «If you want something done, ask a busy person» seems slightly odd, because if they are busy, why would they have time to help you?

But there is a good reason why busy people are in high demand, it is because they have an astonishing depth of focus, they are fully committed to their tasks in hand and as a result, they are less likely to procrastinate. They also understand the value of time so they are likely to waste yours or theirs by misery deadlines.

So, just how do the busy people do it?

- 1) You will never hear them say «I can't, I am too busy». Being busy is a very common complaint in today's professional world and it has become a term to convey your status: if you are not busy, you are not important, right? So why is it that you will never hear a busy person say «I can't, I am too

busy», no matter how over-committed they are? Well that's because being not-busy is unimaginable to them so they are always able to find time, however, they are not unrealistic so they will set expectations of when a task will be completed from the outset.

- 2) They maintain momentum. The rate at which busy people can produce quality work is stunning; some of my friends amaze me by their outputs ever when they are juggling a multitude of activities. Once a busy person is on a roll, there is no stopping them until they get the results they are looking for. Make a plan, get going, maintain momentum and achieve your goals.
- 3) They get the job done soon. Procrastination is not an option when your schedule is packed with an alarming amount of activities and you have a number of people counting on you. We all have those tasks that we just do not want to do, but the difference between a successful «busy person» and the rest of the work-force is that they get the job done soon. They prioritize well and get it over and done with. Next time you think «Oh, I will do it tomorrow» stop yourself and think «oh, I will do it now!».

So in conclusion, here is my message: if you are not one of the busy people, make yourself busy – do not say you are busy, just do the job and maintain

WELCOME THE TASK THAT MAKES YOU GO BEYOND YOURSELF

Kadriya Yuzlikaeva (group 33)



How often do we try to accomplish something that is out of our power?

Perhaps we only convince ourselves that we can't do a certain thing, but in fact we can. Anyway we won't know it because we don't try to broaden the boundaries of our possibilities.

Human nature is made in such a way that we are often afraid of making mistakes. We always try to avoid failure not realizing that we narrow our potential.

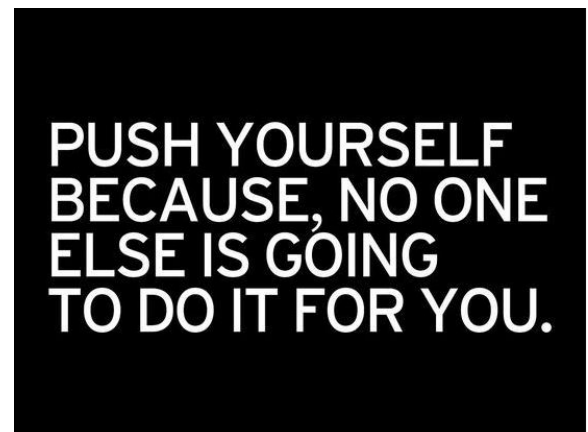
Everybody is likely to know the saying: «Fight fire with fire». It means that if you're afraid of doing something you should overcome it. Very often we refuse to try something because we are not sure of ourselves. Somehow we are convinced that we will fail it.

In this situation we always forget that even if something goes wrong we will not lose anything. The world will not end if we fail the first attempt. And if we don't succeed for the second time as well, we will still have another chance to try and, finally, to achieve our aim.

Psychologists repeat over and over again that if we want to achieve visible and high results we should deliberately set aims which are difficult to attain. Yes, we have to challenge our possibilities. Otherwise, how should we determine our limits and know what we are capable of?

That's why when we come down to some task which, in our opinion, is impossible to solve, we shouldn't step back. Of course it may seem very difficult and we may doubt whether we can do it or not. But, in spite of everything, we should go towards our aim.

In conclusion I'd like to say that whether we succeed or not we'll only benefit from it. Because if we overcome all the difficulties and if we overcome ourselves, we will become stronger. And we'll be able to say that we succeeded in life.



**The Man Who Can Make Things Easy is The
Educator**

Akkosh Gabdullina



In our society to be educated is a necessity. A good education is a must if you want to get a prestigious job or secure some high governmental position.

At the dawn of civilization to be an educated person meant to be a success. Only the privileged ones could learn writing and reading, have access to the world knowledge heritage. Today nearly all – except for those who live in the remote areas, far from modern technologies – can at least read and write, can get and share information in the world scale by means of the Internet. That means today opportunities to succeed are far greater than many years ago.

But some things remain unchanged. No progress would be possible without teachers.

Having become adult and comparatively independent we start forget about the early, “hard” years of our life. We begin to take our well-being for granted, while very often it’s largely due to our educators, teachers, to the knowledge, they had given to us in the former years.

From the very time the person’s birth, he or she starts learning. Being a fresher in this world he/she can’t do without his/her first educator- his/her mother.

As the time passes, the child grows older and the following years of his or her development are affected by the further educators – nannies, coaches and, of course, teachers.

All of them make hard things of our life easier, but this time I would like to pay special attention to teachers, because very soon we (now the students of the department of foreign languages) are going to become teachers ourselves.

To my mind, one should be proud of being a representative of such a noble profession.

There is a saying “A teacher affects eternity”. I absolutely agree with it!

Teachers are like engine works that make the Earth turn. All people participate in the “construction of the civilization” but hardly could it be possible without our teachers. In fact, there are many great professionals that had really affected the development of the mankind. Among them one could name such well-known philosophers and intellectuals as Plato, Socrates, Confucius, Pythagoras, Z. Freud, as well as famous pedagogues like J.H. Pestalozzi, J.A. Comensky, K.D. Ushinsky, A.S. Makarenko... This list is far from full and presents rather an abstract picture.

In real life it turns into the much more concrete, specified and tangible one. It presupposes the hard work of every teacher with every child. And however paradoxical it might seem, exactly this work in the present makes many things the child faces in his life in the future much easier.

But how on Earth is it possible? First of all we should mention here that the phrase “make hard things easy” may be viewed from two different perspectives. On the one hand, it can be interpreted in the following way: “to render the material in a simple way” (so that the pupils could easily understand it). On the other, it can impart to the word combination some general sense, creating a new image – the teacher that passes to the pupils (students) some necessary information that will be of use for them in the future.

The first case is quite simple. Teachers can really explain complex things in plain words; they cite examples, arguments, use visual aids to represent

the material efficiently. Being emotional and inventive, altering activities, teachers are able to keep our mind active during long periods of time. They constantly motivate, support and encourage us; we are affected by their personalities, follow their example. We learn the most difficult things that could be described in many paragraphs by pure imitation – in such a way we save our effort and time, and obtain better results, because we are under control of real masters in their field and are not afraid of mistakes, as we are sure to be corrected or directed on time.

As for the second case, it's far more complicated and also can be considered from several points. First of all, every teacher is an educator. It's a person whose first task is to teach us tolerance, manners, patriotism, responsibility. They inculcate moral values in us, love for human beings, for animals, for nature.

I think all this can stand a good stead almost in every sphere of human's life. People can greatly benefit if they are properly taught how to behave from the early childhood. It's easier for them to communicate; they are benevolent, polite and pleasant. That helps them to create lots of contacts, to tactfully persuade their opponents, have fruitful conversations, and consequently, be highly appreciated by their friends, colleagues and superiors.

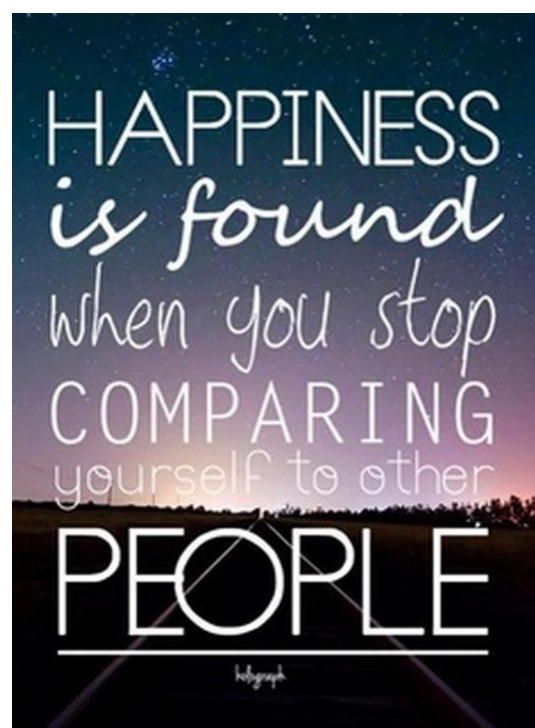
The other side of the coin is that every teacher is a certain "knowledge holder". He or she transmits to the students some bits of information which might be vital. That doesn't concern only the health and safety rules (which nonetheless are crucial), but the sort of knowledge they'll need to perform their future job.

Yes, a good teacher significantly widens their pupils'/students' horizons! Every employer will accept with pleasure a high-skilled, determined professional with profound knowledge of their subject. Having a well paid job you love; respect and sympathy of the people that surround you it's much

easier to overcome any of the current difficulties, I'm absolutely sure!

Yes, it's important to love your job, more so if you have decided to be a teacher. It's not an easy task – to become the one who smoothes the difficulties on somebody's way to perfection; the one, who makes the life of others more colourful, more meaningful, who teaches to live! Teachers are those, who make a difference! In this respect they are real magicians...

I'm grateful to all our teachers and am glad to have the possibility of being part of this magic world!



“Every cloud has a silver lining”

Nikolaeva Regina

This is an idiom which carries the meaning – “it is always possible to get something positive out of a

situation, no matter how unpleasant, difficult or even painful it might seem". It is very useful to comfort people who are facing difficulties.

As for me, this idiom is really suitable for everyone, because, no one will ever have calm and quiet life forever, it always has ups and downs no matter how good you are in planning your life. Therefore, "every cloud has a silver lining" is an idiom that is always applicable to everyone. I'm a person that gets upset very easily even over little things. For example, if I can't manage some task or my homework, if I don't know how to cope with all my problems, I feel very useless. At such moments I feel as if the world is going to end anytime soon. But then, after all, it is just another deadline that I'm trying to meet. So, I've learnt that if you do something, you must do your best, so that you won't regret. Isn't that the silver lining that comes after the cloud?



A very good example, when you go out and work or study, dealing with workers, kids, students, friends, with all kinds of people, you always come across people who complain all the time, all day long about the bad customer, the bad teacher, or again a friend. These situations bring down your mood. But try looking at it from another perspective, without a bad customer, how would you learn to deal with another worse customer and also start appreciating the good customer that you already have? A person's thoughts are very powerful, things can be done just based on the one thought you've made. A simple decision can make a person a success. That's why if people learn from examples, mistakes of others, at the end of the day, things will be pretty sweet and worthwhile. We don't see any solution, but we shouldn't give up. Always keep this idiom in mind, I think it will make us feel motivated to work better. "Every cloud has a silver lining" that's really well said.

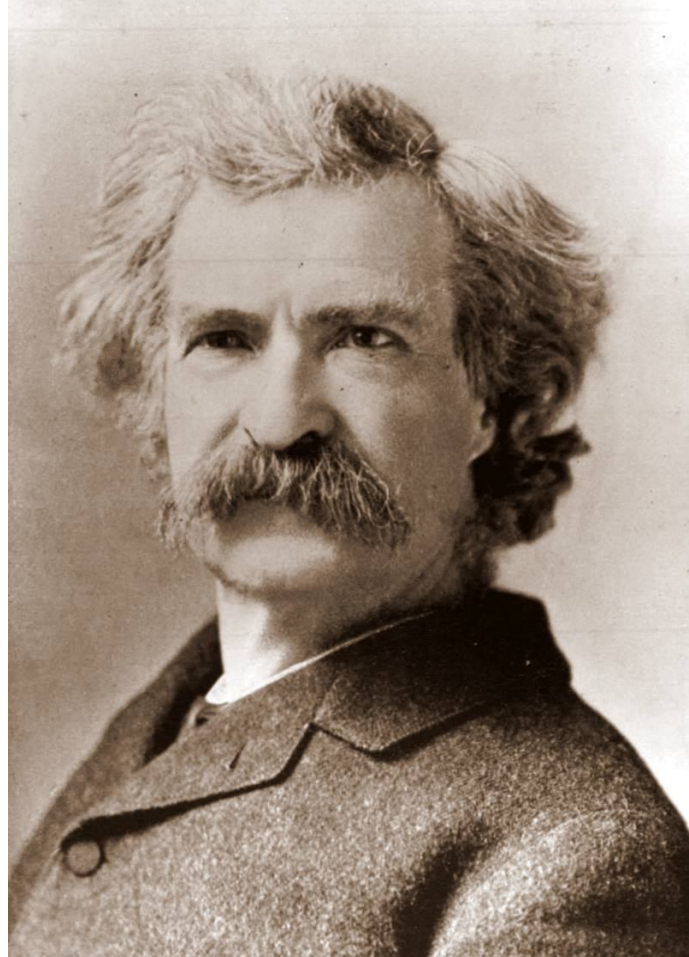
18 Rules for Writing by Mark Twain

It's no secret. I'm a big Mark Twain-head. Most people like the novels of their favorite writers; I however differ. I tend to prefer the lesser known essays, memoirs or even reviews. I like to know the writer's words, untouched by a publishing editor. You're able to see a true side of a writer, all the blemishes and all.

One of my favorite pieces from Twain is an essay outlining the 18 rules of writing addressed to a poor author named James Fenimore Cooper. He is not as well known today, but in the 19th century he was popular for his romantic frontier and native American pieces. Twain made it clear he didn't like Mr. Cooper's books, and he cited two of his books, *The Deerslayer* and *The Pathfinder*.

Twain received much negative criticism saying this was an unfair, overly critical response to his writing. Twain also published this essay more than 40 years after Mr. Cooper had died, so many questioned why Twain published this at all.

In any case, it's a good, humorous set of questions for all of us to take and apply to our own writing. Sure, some of it may be pointed straight to the jugular of James Fenimore, but pretend like someone was writing this letter to you. How would you answer these questions or refute these attacks?



18 Rules of Writing:

1. A tale shall accomplish something and arrive somewhere.

2. The episodes of a tale shall be necessary parts of the tale, and shall help develop it.

3. The personages in a tale shall be alive, except in the case of corpses, and that always the reader shall be able to tell the corpses from the others.

4. The personages in a tale, both dead and alive, shall exhibit a sufficient excuse for being there.

5. When the personages of a tale deal in conversation, the talk shall sound like human talk, and be talk such as human beings would be likely to talk in the given circumstances, and have a discoverable meaning, also a discoverable purpose, and a show of relevancy, and remain in the neighborhood of the subject in hand, and be interesting to the reader, and help out the tale, and stop when the people cannot think of anything more to say.

6. When the author describes the character of a personage in his tale, the conduct and conversation of that personage shall justify said description.

7. When a personage talks like an illustrated, gilt-edged, tree-calf, hand-tooled, seven-dollar Friendship's Offering in the beginning of a paragraph, he shall not talk like a Negro minstrel at the end of it.

8. Crass stupidities shall not be played upon the reader by either the author or the people in the tale.

9. The personages of a tale shall confine themselves to possibilities and let miracles alone; or, if they venture a miracle, the author must so plausibly set it forth as to make it look possible and reasonable.

10. The author shall make the reader feel a deep interest in the personages of his tale and their fate; and that he shall make the reader love the good people in the tale and hate the bad ones.

11. The characters in tale be so clearly defined that the reader can tell beforehand what each will do in a given emergency.

12. An author should say what he is proposing to say, not merely come near it.

13. Use the right word, not its second cousin.

14. Eschew surplusage.

15. Not omit necessary details.

16. Avoid slovenliness of form.

17. Use good grammar.

18. Employ a simple, straightforward style.