



by Alan Vincent Michaels

## *I Need More Time!*

Time.

There's too much and never enough of it. It can be a writer's friend or mortal enemy.

The truth is we can't manage time. We can only manage our tasks. So, how do we get our writing done? It's easy. We write. Pen to paper, fingers on the keyboard, or recording our voice. Easy, yes? Except, there are so many things that get in our way.

Let's take a look at how to remove some of these roadblocks, what "hacks" other writers have used, and share personal stories of what impedes your progress and what gets in in your way.

## *Our Biggest Roadblock is Ourselves*

We get in our own way. We can't really help it. We're only human. We all have lives to live.

- **"The page is blank. What do I do?"**

It's called "writer's block." It happens to all of us. Acknowledge it and move on.

How, you ask?

When I "lock up," I just start writing the first thing that comes into my head. It doesn't have to be about the piece I want to work on. It's a trick to get my fingers started.

I then think about a character. What is she like? What does she like or hate or love or \_\_\_\_\_. After I typed for a few moments, I realized I just written 101 words for this first bullet.

- **"It's such a beautiful day outside. I don't feel like writing a single word."**

Beautiful days are beautiful. Don't ignore the day. Go outside for 15 minutes or an hour, and do some gardening, weeding, or grass cutting.

Go for a walk. Breathe deeply and think about a plot element that's giving you trouble, or a character interaction, or think about what need from the grocery store.

Then, go back inside and write for an hour or two. It always amazes me how taking a break from my writing helps me write more than I thought I would.

- **“My daughter needs to get to school. She missed her bus.”**

Of course, there will always be the emergencies and unplanned situations that rear up and halt your forward momentum. Take the time to deal with whatever comes up. Life and family must be your first priority.

Then, when you can, get immediately back to your writing. Try to minimize further distractions.

- **“My family member, friend, or \_\_\_\_ keeps interrupting me.”**

That never happens. Right? Of course, little interruptions happen. Since you're already distracted by their interruption, turn and face them, deal with the issue or question, then get back to your writing.

To minimize these interruptions, put a sign next to your desk or on your door. Be whimsical and cute. Maybe something like: **“Do Not Disturb! Otherwise, I may add you as a character in my next book!”**

## “Just Write!”

**That's it. This is my #1 hack.**

Nothing more really needs to be said. You have to write if you want to be writer.

“Okay. I'm writing now. But it's going slowly, nowhere, backwards ...”

Fair enough.

Read on ...

## “10 Rules for Writing First Drafts”

Your main goal is to communicate your message – whatever it is, whatever genre, whatever topic – out to the world.

I think this straightforward list from **Demian Farnworth** will help you keep writing ([www.copyblogger.com](http://www.copyblogger.com)).

1. Barricade the door. It must be just you, the ink, and the paper.
2. Work in a physical and mental condition that makes you want to write. Get there by all means possible.
3. Write yourself silly.
4. Allow your imagination to go to weird places. Nothing is off limits. You can clean up your mess later.
5. Break every writing rule known to man.
6. It's okay if it reads like a letter from a lunatic.
7. Steal stylistically from other writers, as all great writers do.
8. Keep your bottom in your chair until you are done.
9. Once you've finished a first draft, leave it alone for days – if not weeks.
10. Celebrate.

**10**

*Rules for Writing*  
**FIRST DRAFTS**

by DEMIAN FARNWORTH

copyblogger

## ***“15 Ways to Overcome Your Fears of Writing a Book”***

**Brian Tracey’s** blog and the topics below are located here:

<https://www.briantracy.com/blog/writing/overcome-your-fear-of-writing-a-book/>

1. Don't Worry If Your Book Isn't Perfect The First Time
2. Stop Thinking About What Other People Will Think
3. Create Time For Yourself To Write
4. Know Who You Are Writing For
5. Outline Your Book Before You Begin
6. Break Up Your Writing Into Chunks
7. Write Often, Even When You Don't Want To
8. Save Editing For The End
9. Free Yourself From Distractions
10. Rid Your Mind Of The Fear Of Failure
11. Stay Organized
12. Know When You're Finished
13. Become An Expert In Your Area
14. Craft Your Message First
15. It's Never Too Late To Start

## ***“9 Hacks That Will Help You Get More Writing Done (and in Less Time)”***

**Glenn Leibowitz’s** essay and the topics below are located here:

<https://www.inc.com/glenn-leibowitz/9-hacks-that-will-help-you-get-more-writing-done-and-in-less-time.html>

1. The power of "morning pages"
2. Schedule writing time on your calendar
3. Create a detailed outline
4. Write in short timed sprints
5. Take your writing with you
6. End your writing day by beginning the next day's session
7. Shut off social media
8. Find the right place
9. Tune into background music (or white noise)

## ***“Stephen King Used These 8 Writing Strategies to Sell 350 Million Books”***

**Glenn Leibowitz’s** essay and the topics below are located here:

<https://www.inc.com/glenn-leibowitz/8-simple-writing-strategies-that-helped-stephen-king-sell-350-million-books.html>

1. Tell the truth
2. Don't use big words when small ones work
3. Use single-sentence paragraphs
4. Write for your Ideal Reader
5. Read a lot
6. Write one word at a time
7. Write every day
8. Write for the joy of it