

What's the secret to writing?

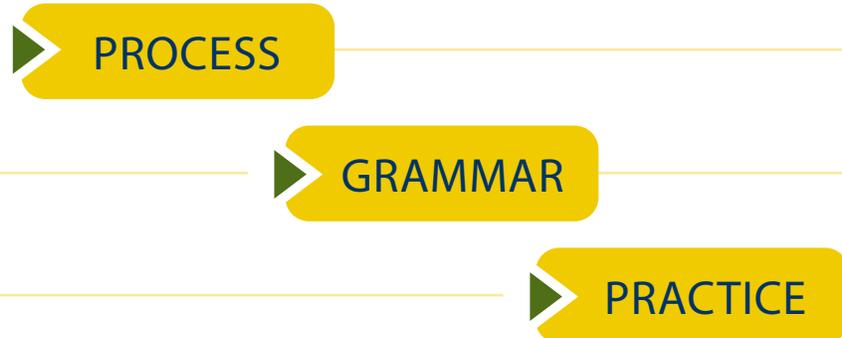
The
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Because Words Matter

What's the secret to writing?

When someone hears our company name, TheSecretToWriting.com, or the words, The Secret To Writing, the reaction of the person is often a pause, followed by the question: “what’s the secret to writing?” It is reasonable that one might ask this question, as it’s often the case that many people struggle with, or at best, seek to improve their writing skills.

Fortunately, there is a secret to writing. Once you understand the secret, then you can use it throughout your life. Whether you are a middle school student, a business professional, or a seasoned writer, the principles, practices, and skills that constitute the secret to writing will benefit you. Your writing will be better organized, easier to read, and more effective. The secret to writing enables you to clearly express your thoughts and ideas.

So what is the secret to writing? Think of the secret to writing in the context of three components:



When asked to write something, be-it a résumé, research paper, letter, or report, how you approach the assignment makes a world of difference. Will your writing experience be stressful? How long will it take you to complete the task? Where will you begin? How will you organize your ideas? These are all questions that may come to mind. Your answer to these questions can dramatically impact your success with the writing assignment. If, however, you have a writing process—an approach or methodology to writing—then you will have a framework to guide you. And while you may need to modify or adjust the writing process for a given assignment, the fact that you have a process will help. In my book, *The Secret To Writing: 10 Secrets to Effective Communication Through Writing*, I share my 10-step writing process. More importantly, I offer readers feedback on how the 10 steps can or should be applied.

The intent of this short document—What’s the secret to writing?—is not to provide an analysis of the 10-step writing process. Rather, my goal is to highlight the premise that there is, indeed, a process involved in writing. Knowing that there is a process involved in writing encompasses the first component of the secret to writing.



GRAMMAR

Having an understanding of grammar is the second component of the secret to writing. You cannot get around the importance of understanding grammar rules and correctly applying them.

People may be intimidated by the idea of having to learn grammar. I acknowledge that there are many grammar rules, and in the process of writing, one has to know how and when to use one rule versus another.

You, like me, or for that matter, most people may have to learn and re-learn grammar rules. That's okay. The key take-away message is to recognize the need to use correct grammar in your writing. Grammar is essential to unmasking the secret to writing.



The third and final component of the secret to writing is practice. Practice. Practice. Practice. Writing is a skill. In order to write well, you have to write. The more you write, the better your writing skills will become. And, as you write, your ability to use my 10-step writing process and to use proper grammar will improve.

Good writing doesn't just magically happen, even for the most accomplished authors, teachers, and public speakers. If you understand and embrace the three components of the secret to writing, you, too, will enjoy success in your written communication.

Stanley B. Lemons

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and effective guide to writing

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10 Secrets to
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