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Writing Techniques Part 2: Technical Skills to Develop

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Find Your Voice

- Less is More
 - Make every word count
 - Use concise descriptions

Write in the Five Senses

- What can the characters see?
- What can the characters hear?
- What can the characters taste?
- What can the characters feel?
- What can the characters smell?
- Can’t Write Without an Outline

Verbs of Being Kill the Vibe

- To Be or Not To Be
 - Is
 - Are
 - Was
 - Were
 - Been
 - Being
- Use sparingly
- Rewrite sentences to be active

Active vs. Passive (ing-words)

Showing vs. Telling Indicators | [AutoCrit Online Editing | www.autocrit.com/editing/support/showing-vs-telling-indicators](http://www.autocrit.com/editing/support/showing-vs-telling-indicators)

- “jogged” vs. “was jogging”
- “When she opened” vs. “Upon opening”

Active lends more to showing; Passive lends more to telling

Filter Words – Avoid Them

Are These Filter Words Weakening Your Fiction? - Write It Sideways | www.writeitsideways.com/are-these-filter-words-weakening-your-fiction

| | | | |
|---------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| • See | • Feel | • Know | • Wonder |
| • Hear | • Can | • Notice | • Realize |
| • Think | • Decide | • Experience | • Watch |
| • Touch | • Sound | • Observe | • Look |
| • Seem | | | |

Writing Dialogue

- Each character gets their own paragraph
- Use tags (i.e. she said; he asked) to show who is speaking
- Use double quotes
- Use “said” and “asked” most often; “whispered” is okay too