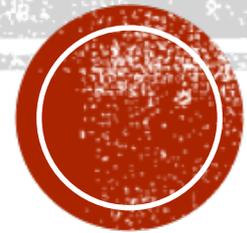
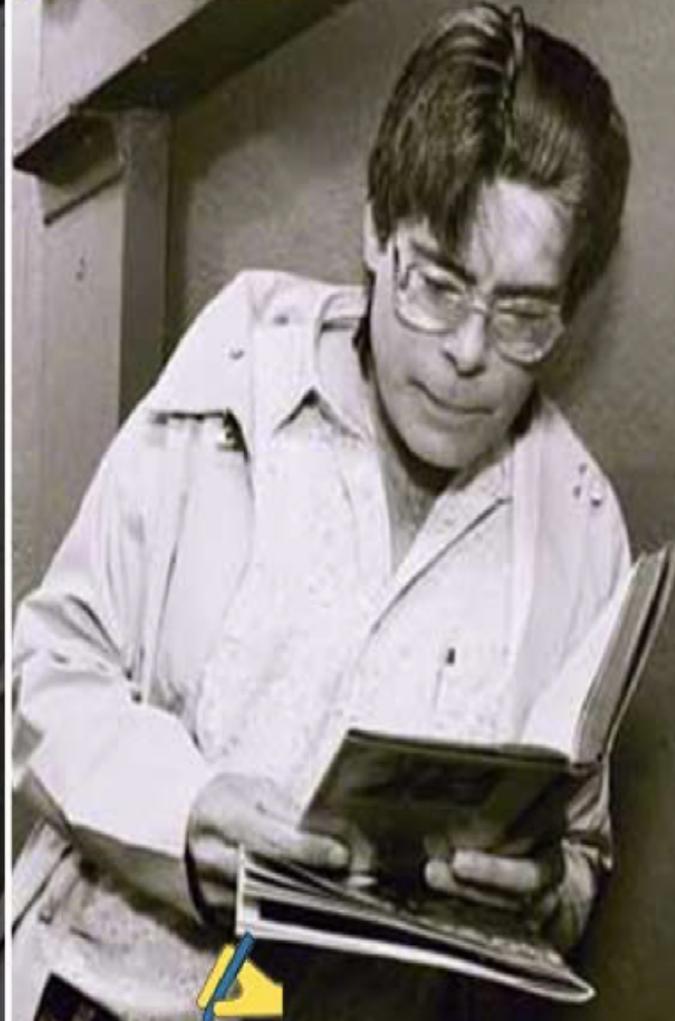


FIRST PAGES WORKSHOP

You don't get a second chance to make a first impression



“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There’s no way around these two things that I’m aware of, no shortcut.”
-Stephen King

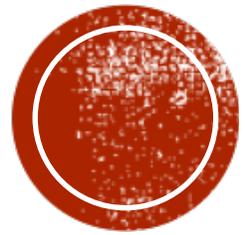


 ProWriter

FIRST THINGS FIRST

What are you reading?
Are you reading for fun in your genre? Who are your favorite authors in your genre? What do you love about their books? How does your work compare?





PACING, SETTING, & VOICE

Are you hooking your reader? Keeping them engaged?

SET THE PACE AND KEEP IT UP

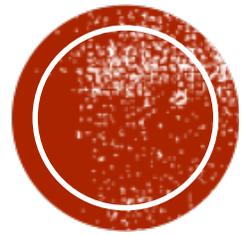
- The tone and pace of your work should be evident from the first paragraph.
- We should know where we are on the first page of the work and we should see it clearly.
- Kill the passive voice in your manuscript lest it kill your work.
- Avoid repetitive phrasing.



A TALE OF TWO VOICES

- Curtis stepped off the platform. He looked for his family.
- When Curtis stepped off the platform, he searched for his family.





CLEAN AND TIGHTEN IT UP

Avoid clutter words, repetitive phrasing
and frontloading your backstory

GET RID OF THE CLUTTER

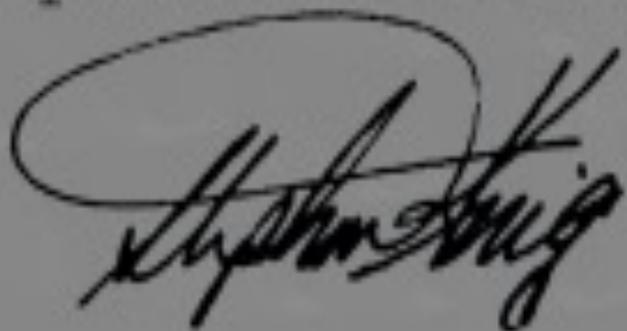
Words to cut from your writing from inkandquills.com

- **Of the**
 - Change “owner of the restaurant” to “restaurant owner.”
- **That**
 - Change “he said that he was coming” to “he said he was coming.”
- **Adverbs**
 - Most of them are superfluous. “He whispered quietly.”
- **Almost/slightly/somewhat**
 - Change “the weather was slightly hot” to “the weather was balmy.”
- **Really/very/quite**
 - Change “he ran really fast across the parking lot” to “he bolted across the parking lot.”
- **Adjectives**
 - Most can be combined. “The spotted dog” is just “the Dalmatian.”
- **Things/Stuff**
 - Vague words like this do very little to help the reader.
- **Most dialogue tags**
 - Action tags are better.
- **Thought/realized/wondered**
 - Like dialogue tags, replace these with action tags.
- **Then**
 - Change “Sara called a cab and then grabbed her coat” to “Sara called a cab then grabbed her coat.”



"The most important things to remember about back story are that
(a) everyone has a history and
(b) most of it isn't very interesting."

20 quotes on writing by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen King', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Stephen King

DON'T FRONTLOAD YOUR BACKSTORY

Instead of a long prologue to your work, pepper in the backstory into the body of your work to give the world and characters greater depth.



SARITZA HERNANDEZ

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Instagram: @saritzah

#TeamCorvisiero

