

WRITEGIRL PLANET

COMEDY WORKSHOP

Issue No. 4

Writing Tips

FROM COMEDIANS IN
HOLLYWOOD

Say My Name, Say My Name

DISCOVER A UNIQUELY
FUNNY JOB

Get Specific

MAKE YOUR WRITING
RELATABLE

Comedy Inspiration at Home

A COMEDIC WRITING
ADVENTURE FROM HOME

PLUS

ZEN WITH A PEN:
SELF-CARE TOOLKIT



writegirl™
www.writegirl.org

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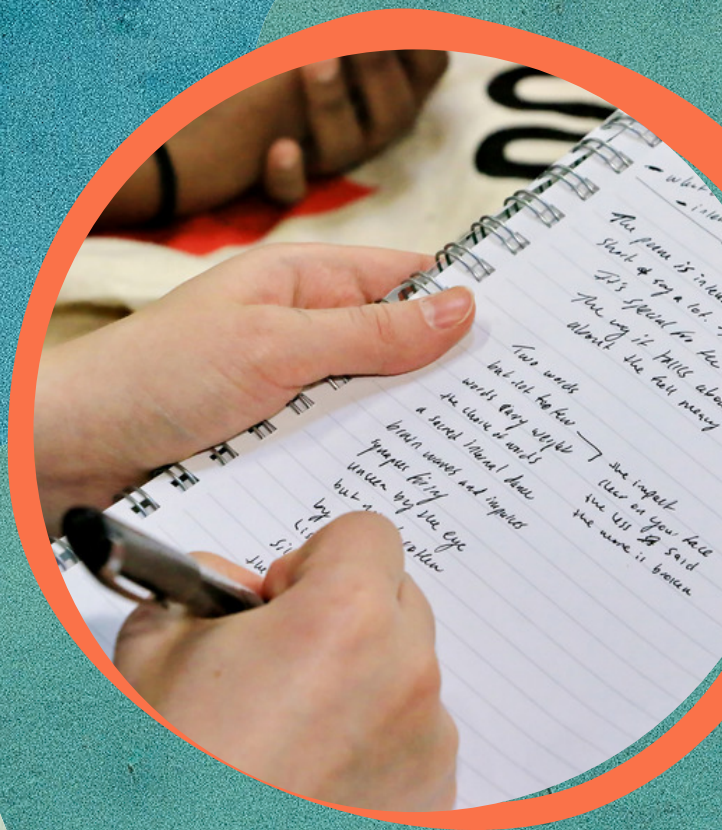
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HOW TO USE THIS AT HOME

1 Shake off your stress, take a slow deep breath and calm your mind.

2 Grab your journal and a pen. (Or the nearest paper you find – any paper works! But don't use the toilet paper for this!)

3 Browse this "WriteGirl Planet" and find something that intrigues you.

4 Take a break for some water and a healthy snack!



5 When you feel like you've achieved something, draw a happy face on your work! And then send it to us! We want to read your work. Submit your writing on the WriteGirl Clubhouse page.

6 If you start missing WriteGirl workshops, here are some photos from past WriteGirl in-person events!



MEET OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Clare Sera

Screenwriter

Clare went to school for theatre and is a proud co-founding member of the SAK Theatre Comedy Lab in Orlando, Florida. She moved to LA and appeared in a couple of movies like *Princess Diaries*. Then, she began writing them, including *Blended* (2014) and *Smallfoot* (2019). She has been with WriteGirl since day one and hopes there is never a day none. Yes, that's the kind of writing she does.



 @claresera

 @claresera

COMEDY WRITING TIP:

WRITE IN THE MORNING BEFORE YOU ARE FULLY AWAKE.

Marcelina Chavira

Actor/Comedian



Marcelina grew up in Dallas, Texas. At Bryn Mawr College, she studied Dance and Anthropology. Shortly thereafter, she received an MA from NYU in Performance Studies. Both her undergraduate and graduate work focused on the performance of identity and ethnicity. She then decided against a PhD and moved to LA to become a cartoon!

But cartoons are not real. So she resigned herself to voice-over and has since found a wonderful home in sketch comedy. Marcelina is constantly on stage with the all women of color sketch team The BAE+GENCY, The Pack Theater house sketch team Friendo, and the all Latinx sketch team Latinx Comedy Pachanga.

 @thedeathofmarat

COMEDY WRITING TIP:

Just because the UPS man is just dropping off a package doesn't mean he can't also drop an awesome joke! Give jokes to everybody, from the main character to the guy dropping off a package.

Rashawn Scott

Actor/Singer/Comedian



Rashawn Nadine Scott is an actor, singer and comedian from the Pacific Northwest. She studied Theatre Arts at Western Washington University. In the forest, she honed her skills to head to the Midwest. In Chicago, Rashawn produced local comedy shows and took improv classes at iO while performing throughout the city. She appeared on NPR's *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* podcast and co-hosted *Windy City Live*. Rashawn was part of the inaugural class of The Second City's Bob Curry Fellowship. This success allowed her to become a member of the theatre's national touring company, as well as a performer in multiple revues on both the ETC and Main stages. Recently, Rashawn moved to Los Angeles. In 2019, she was part of the *CBS Diversity Showcase*. Her credits include *Kitty Goodnight* on Comedy Central's *South Side*, Nurse Karen on CBS's *Carol's Second Act*, *Shrink*, *Empire* and voice-over work in the feature film *Spies In Disguise*. **Check it out:** Rashawn will soon appear in an episode of *Reno 911* on Quibi! *South Side* is streaming on Comedy Central.

 @rashawnscott  @rashawnscott

COMEDY WRITING TIP:

I personally love source material and references. As much detail as you can provide for the character allows the actor to play in the world you've created.

SAY MY NAME, SAY MY NAME

Names are everywhere - it's how we are able to talk about all the things around us. We might say the grass is green... but what if it was "Raw Spinach Green"? A lot more fun, right? Think of all the crazy nail polish names you have seen, such as "Poof! Be-gonia" or "Red-y to glow" or "Pat on the black" or "Sunrise Salutation" or "Diamonds and Rubies" or "Kook-a-Mango." (These are all actual nail polish colors that Katie Geyer has in her bathroom, by the way!) Here are some other color names we invented at WriteGirl and thought were pretty inventive: "Today-I-Accomplished-Zero Purple", "Sea, Sun, and Sand in my Pants Gold", and "I'm-Not-Really-a-Waitress Red". If you need more inspiration, check out the names of crayon colors, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream flavors, house paint colors, flowers, shoes or cars....a lot of creative brainstorming went into naming all these items, so soak up their inventive ideas!

COLOR NAMING EXPERIMENT #1:

Get creative with naming the colors of things around you, wherever you are right now. If it's teal, what does that teal remind you of - that one time you pretended to be a mermaid in the public pool? Introducing, "Public Pool Mermaid Teal"! Name at least 10 items.

COLOR NAMING EXPERIMENT #2:

Go to this Pantone Color Chart, pick 5 shades that you like and give them each a new name: www.pantone-colours.com

COLOR NAMING STORY #3:

Take one of the colors you created, and use it as a title for a short story or poem. (P.S. Send your writing to us! We want to read it! Submit your writing on the WriteGirl Clubhouse page.)

GET SPECIFIC!

The craft of writing comedy is all about getting specific!

What's funnier? "I was walking down the aisle in a store and slipped in something."

OR

"I was prancing down the cereal aisle at the Trader Joe's on Cahuenga when I slipped on a puddle of orange marmalade!"

A big part of what makes a story funny is that it's relatable. When you include specific details, people can see/feel/hear/imagine what you are describing, and relate to it. By being specific, you help your audience think, "I get what she's talking about!" People laugh at things they can relate to! Reading about a marmalade puddle at Trader Joe's gives someone a richer mental image than just thinking about someone slipping on something at some store. (Hey, all those "s's" are kinda funny because they use alliteration. Try using that in your comedy writing!)

• COMEDY-AT-HOME WRITING EXPERIMENT:

Think about something unexpected that happened to you recently at home. It could be something that happened in the middle of the night, or first thing in the morning...something like when you ate a weird food combination, or when you bumped into something, or forgot about something... Give us all the specific details of the event, and put us in the front row of your scene or life moment. Give yourself 5 minutes to write it!

(Send us your writing!)



WORD UPGRADES!

Use these word clouds to inspire some word replacements in your writing.

Words to use
instead of

SAID:

INSTEAD OF: SAID

TRY:

Accuse	Propose	Bark	Told
Enquire	Argue	Beam	Taunt
Profess	Exclaim	Bellow	Volunteer
Rant	Question	Boast	Whine
Ask	Fib	Brag	Whisper
Promise	Articulate	Utter	Yell
Agree	Assure	Mimic	Persist
Enunciate	Announce	Mock	Shout

Words to use
instead of

NICE:

INSTEAD OF: NICE

TRY:

Fair	Cute	Fantastic	Well
Pleasant	Pretty	Great	Right
Gentle	Lovely	Swell	Cordial
Polite	Generous	Fine	Likable
Considerate	Thoughtful	Cheery	Super
Kind	Temperate	Divine	Gracious
Sweet	Wonderful	Okay	Perfect
Perfect	Stunning	Splendid	Mild

(We want to read
your writing!
Submit it on the
WriteGirl
Clubhouse Page!)

WORD UPGRADES!

Words to use instead of

VERY:

INSTEAD OF:

Very Clean
Very Boring
Very Beautiful
Very Noisy
Very Sorry
Very Smart
Very Tall
Very Careful

TRY:

Spotless
Dull
Gorgeous
Deafening
Apologetic
Intelligent
Towering
Cautious

Words to use instead of

NICE:

INSTEAD OF: NICE

TRY:

Fair	Cute	Fantastic	Well
Pleasant	Pretty	Great	Right
Gentle	Lovely	Swell	Cordial
Polite	Generous	Fine	Likable
Considerate	Thoughtful	Cheery	Super
Kind	Temperate	Divine	Gracious
Sweet	Wonderful	Okay	Perfect
Perfect	Stunning	Splendid	Mild

Words to use instead of

GOOD:

INSTEAD OF: GOOD

TRY:

Acceptable	Phenomenal	Flawless	Sensational
Excellent	Superb	Terrific	Compelling
Positive	Sublime	Favorable	Brilliant
Valuable	Fascinating	Tremendous	Charming
Wonderful	Joyous	Amiable	Lovely
Satisfying	Likable	Perfect	Remarkable
Stunning	Marvelous	Appealing	Outstanding
Engaging	Impressive	Interesting	Magnificent

WRITING TIP!

Write in whatever mood you're in.
Be open to seeing where your writing leads you.

MAKE STAYING-AT-HOME A COMEDIC WRITING ADVENTURE

Make new friends... with your vegetables!

Write a couple lines of dialogue between your "lunchbag brown" potato and "90's neon green" celery. Create character descriptions for your vegetables. Is one of them the star athlete of the fridge and the other the booksmart know-it-all? You can even have your vegetables act out the scene on your kitchen counter! (Why not, we all have to entertain ourselves, right, and it makes for a great pre-dinner show!)

(WE WANT TO READ
YOUR WRITING!
SUBMIT IT ON THE
WRITEGIRL
CLUBHOUSE PAGE!)

Write a standup comedy monologue...by your pet!

What does your dog or goldfish think about all day? If you don't have a pet, what does the bird outside complain about? Write their standup comedy special and picture them performing it.

Have a conversation...with your furniture!

Write a scene from an imaginary animated TV show starring your household items! Are the chairs notorious gossips? Does the couch have a lot of opinions about the show the humans just binge-watched? What does that coffee table really think about the rug?

THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Use these digital resources to explore the world from your room!

Embrace Your Inner Rock Star!

[The GRAMMY Museum](#) releases mini musical lessons, performances and never-before-seen interviews on a daily basis! Recent interviewees include Billie Eilish and Brandi Carlile.

Boost Your Bilingual Brain!

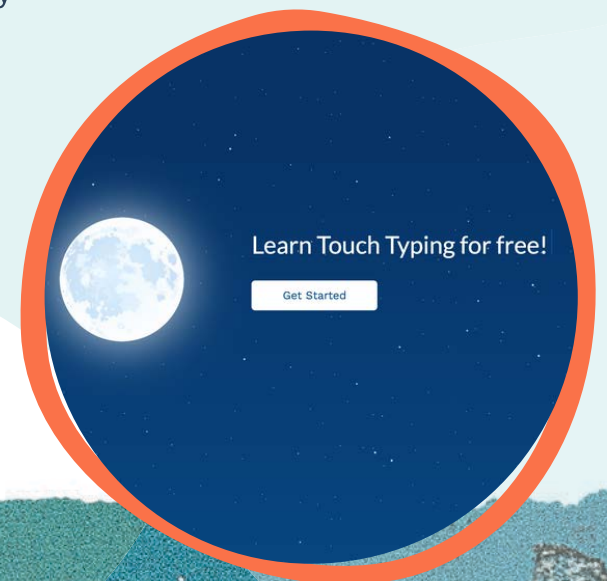
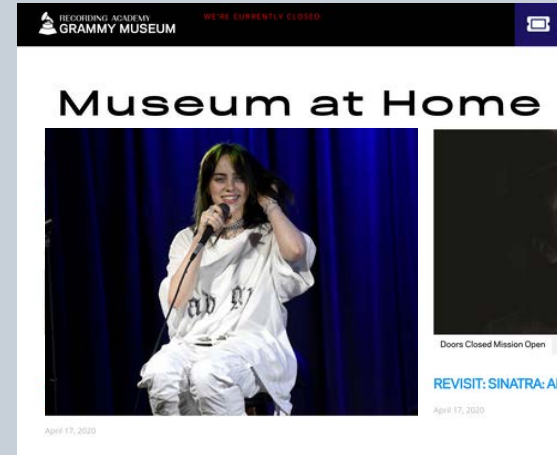
Not only is learning a new language a great professional skill, it also does wonders for your brain! It strengthens your ability to focus, improves your memory and impresses your friends! Try downloading the FREE language-learning app [Duolingo](#). You can pick from 35 different languages like French, Japanese or Klingon!

Wake Up with Writing Hour!

Jump start your day with [Quarantine Writing Hour](#) from New York Times bestselling author Amy Cuddy. She leads the event every day at 8 AM on her Instagram. You'll get writing tips and a live discussion with a famous author!

Type at the Speed of Light!

Want to type faster? Typing is an important skill that you need for most careers, and now is a great time to work on it. [Typing Club](#) has over 600 typing games and quizzes (that are actually fun)!



ZEN WITH A PEN

There's nothing better than getting a serious case of the giggles. Since this WriteGirl Planet is all about comedy, take some time to make yourself laugh this week! Laughter is the best medicine after all. Try this tongue twister, for example, and see if you can say it 10 times superfast: A noisy noise annoys an oyster

Time to check in with yourself! Shoulders tight? Try to relax them. Jaw clenched? Wiggle it around. Sometimes you don't realize how tense you are when you're sitting still. What do you do to relax? Write a list of things you do to relax yourself and keep it handy for the next tense moment.

 **BEND OVER & TOUCH YOUR TOES**

TENSE YOUR WHOLE BODY AND THEN RELAX IT



 **TAKE BIG BREATH AND LET IT OUT SLOWLY**

PLAY SOME OCEAN SOUNDS



You may not have control over current events, but you can control the end of a story! Have you watched or read anything that you wish had a different ending? Try rewriting it! Add that epic speech or that sweet reunion, and feel the power in your pen!

Brain games can be great de-stressers. Try working on a crossword puzzle for 20 minutes. You can find some great free crossword puzzles online! Once 20 minutes is up, re-write all of your "down" answers into a poem!



#LALOVEPOEM PROJECT

WRITE A LOVE POEM
TO LOS ANGELES!

As the streets of Los Angeles sit empty, WriteGirl aims to bring energy and life back into the city using the power of creativity! We're excited to announce we are launching a city-wide project to benefit WriteGirl, called #LALovePoem. We're asking all of Los Angeles to write a few lines of poetry dedicated to the city we call home. Send us your writing and we may feature it on our social media accounts or on our blog!

This project is an important fundraiser for WriteGirl (a virtual bake sale, if you will!) and we need your help! April is National Poetry Month (kismet, anyone?) So there's no better way to celebrate than by contributing your own #LALovePoem! Remember to be specific, incorporate your senses (smells, sounds, etc.) and make it unique to you.

#LALOVEPOEM
TO BENEFIT WRITEGIRL



JOIN THE
#LALOVEPOEM
PROJECT:

1. Write a love poem to LA.
2. Post your poem or a video of you reading it...or film a family member reading it...or make a fun graphic out of it...get creative!
3. Tag a friend to ask them to participate and share their poem.
4. Encourage people to donate at writegirl.org to empower girls!



FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.WRITEGIRL.ORG/LA-LOVE-POEM

WHAT'S NEXT?

POETRY

WriteGirl Poetry Workshop

It's National Poetry Month! Join us to learn the secrets to using imagery and other poetic devices to make your poems sparkle! We will be joined by special guest poets that will share insights and writing experiments to bring out your inner poet. There will be SoapBox...and we will wrap up with our signature, "WriteGirl Poetry Cafe," where you can share your poems with the WriteGirl community.

Saturday, April 25th

11 AM - 12:30 PM

Via Zoom -

watch your email for the link.

**SPECIAL
THANKS TO:**



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