

10 Drabble-Writing Tips

By Arlene Duane Hemingway

1. **Limit your final word count to one hundred words.** Your first drafts will probably be longer. Don't worry! You can edit them down.
2. **Select any topic that appeals to you.** Notes of appreciation, love, work, relationships, current events, getting things off your chest—all may prime the pump. Write legibly when thoughts come to you. Don't risk forgetting them by waiting until later. Many topics may interest you simultaneously. If so, put them in a folder. The idea that you keep going back to is probably the one to write about first.
3. **Write whenever you feel inspired,** which may be while waiting in the doctor's office or in long lines (for a Coronavirus test, or to pick up take-out), first thing in the morning, or right before bed!
4. **Write in active not passive voice.** Example: Beautiful *giraffes roam* the savannah. (Active) vs. The savannah *is roamed by* beautiful giraffes. (Passive)
5. **Carry a pen/pencil and a notebook with you at all times.**
6. **Consider writing your first draft by hand, with pen or pencil;** it will give you a better heart to hand connection. Don't labor over spelling or punctuation. Hone drafts (make corrections) in the computer. Again, you will likely have over (sometimes well over) one-hundred words at first. Don't fret, just edit! This is supposed to be fun, even when it's difficult! (And writing well *is* difficult!)
7. **For correctness, use the internet to fact check.** Specifically, keep an eye out for hyphenated and compound words; they will change your word count!
8. **Invest in a thesaurus.** Or, use an online thesaurus: www.wordhippo.com is excellent!
9. **Join a writers' group.** Accepting feedback graciously can lead to making the final version of any story far better than the original. Be open!
10. **If you plan on taking up writing as a hobby, only tell people in your circle that are and will be encouraging;** this eliminates naysayers.

