



Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer

By Roy Peter Clark

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A special 10th anniversary edition of Roy Peter Clark's bestselling guide to writing, featuring five bonus tools.

Ten years ago, Roy Peter Clark, America's most influential writing teacher, whittled down almost thirty years of experience in journalism, writing, and teaching into a series of fifty short essays on different aspects of writing. In the past decade, *Writing Tools* has become a classic guidebook for novices and experts alike and remains one of the best loved books on writing available.

Organized into four sections, "Nuts and Bolts," "Special Effects," "Blueprints for Stories," and "Useful Habits," *Writing Tools* is infused with more than 200 examples from journalism and literature. This new edition includes five brand new, never-before-shared tools.

Accessible, entertaining, inspiring, and above all, useful for every type of writer, from high school student to novelist, *Writing Tools* is essential reading.

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Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer By Roy Peter Clark Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6061 in Books
- Brand: Little Brown and Company
- Published on: 2008-01-10
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .88" w x 5.50" l, .54 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Covering the writing waterfront—from basics on verb tense to the value of forming a "support group"—Poynter Institute vice president Clark offers tips, tricks and techniques for anyone putting fingers to keyboard. The best assets in Clark's book are in the "workshop" sections that conclude each chapter and list strategies for incorporating the material covered in each lesson (minimize adverbs, use active verbs, read your work aloud). Though some suggestions are classroom campy ("Listen to song lyrics to hear how the language moves on the ladder of abstraction" and "With some friends, take a big piece of chart paper and with colored markers draw a diagram of your writing process"), Clark's blend of instruction and exercise will prove especially useful for teachers. One exercise, for instance, suggests reading the newspaper and marking the location of subjects and verbs. Another provides a close reading of a passage from *The Postman Always Rings Twice* to look at the ways word placement and sentence structure can add punch to prose. Clark doesn't intend his guide to be a replacement for classic style guides like *Elements of Style*, but as a companion volume, it does the trick.

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From [Booklist](#)

The author, vice president of the Poynter Institute School of Journalism, wants you to understand that a tool isn't the same thing as a rule. A tool is something designed to help you, not constrict you. The 50 tools discussed here take writers through the process of storytelling in prose, from the basic (construct a sentence with a subject and a verb) to the advanced (make your characters archetypes, not stereotypes). Many of Clark's rules are technical, having to do with such matters as punctuation and tense, but some of them are more thematically oriented (for example, discussions of the proper uses of foreshadowing and suspense). Use the tools when you like, the author says, and throw them away when it suits you. Just know what it is you're throwing away and why. This is a useful tool for writers at all levels of experience, and it's entertainingly written, with plenty of helpful examples. *David Pitt*

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Review

"Roy Peter Clark knows more about writing than anybody I know who is not currently dead." ***Dave Barry, author of Dave Barry's History of the Millennium (So Far)***

"Clark is a joyful, brilliant teacher who unlocks the mysteries of literary flow. This book is one to keep near the keyboard." ***Anne Hull, national reporter for the Washington Post***

"Roy is the Obi-Wan Kenobi of writing teachers....Like its author, *Writing Tools* is brilliant, openhearted, and indispensable; it's easily one of the best books ever published about our craft." ***Thomas French, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of Zoo Story***

"Clark is a national treasure that needs to be mined aggressively." ***DeWayne Wickham, USA Today***

"For all the aspiring writers out there--whether you're writing a novel or a technical report--a respected scholar at Florida's Poynter Institute for Journalists pulls back the curtain on the art." ***Teresa K. Weaver, Atlanta Journal-Constitution***

"Pull out a favorite novel or short story, and read it with the guidance of...Clark's ideas....Readers will find new worlds in familiar places. And writers will be inspired to pick up their pens."? *Boston Globe*

"No matter what you write--a blog, a love letter, the next great American novel--*Writing Tools* offers practical advice that is a pleasure to read."? *St. Petersburg Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Ames:

The book *Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the best thing like a book *Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer*? A few of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim in which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you can give for each other; you can share all of these. Book *Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer* has simple shape however you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can search the enormous world by start and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

Kristen Self:

The reason? Because this *Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have got such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were being you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Regina Nichols:

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