

A 3D rendered white figure, resembling a stylized person or character, is holding a blue and silver pen. The figure is positioned in the center of the image, with the pen held vertically in its right hand. The background is a plain, light gray surface.

WRITING IS POWER !!

Kari L. Brown

[www.karilbrown.com](http://www.karilbrown.com)

Why write?

Common misconceptions

The Four Forms of writing

Keys to writing for success

Resources

Exercise

(What will they write when you're gone?)

Why write?

People who write are POWERFUL!

In science and technology you influence people by writing.

Clear writing = Clear Thinking

# Why write?

For thousands of years human beings have used **marks**, symbols, **drawings** and signs to **communicate** with one another. In order to **share knowledge**, we need to be able to **store information** and **pass it on** to future generations. Memory is our first resource, but, over the centuries, we have developed many other ways to store and **transmit information**.

# Common misconceptions

Writing is important in Humanities, but not science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Unless you are born with it...

you can't write well.

# The Four Forms of Writing

## • Narrative

- Tells a story
- Fiction (auto-biographies, biographies, etc.)
- Non-fiction (fairy tales, fictitious novels, short stories)
- Beginning (character development/intro to plot line), Middle (plot/climax) and End (conclusion/resolution)

## • Expository

- Gives facts/quotes
- No plot, narrative, or characters

## • Descriptive

- Phrases and figurative language
- Metaphors, similes, personification, etc.
- Create a feeling or visual experience

## • Persuasive

- Getting the reader to believe your opinion
- Info to support the central idea of what you want reader to believe
- Strong arguments to make your opinion sound logical



# Examples of Writing Forms

Letters

Directions – How To

Summaries

Stories

Resumes

Fantasies

Comics

Blogs

Essays

Poetry/Rap

Newspaper Headlines

Point of View

Reports

Plays

Wanted Posters

Testimonials

Eulogies

Fortune Cookies

Autobiographies

Movie Reviews

Prologues

Recipes

Storyboards

E-mails

Journals

Advice Column

Riddle

Laws

Restaurant Reviews

Memos

Biographies

Epilogues

# Keys to writing for success

## • Papers

- Take a library tour and get familiar with computer search tools.
- Pose a research question and plan a search strategy.
- Find sources.
- Read your sources and take notes.
- Decide on a tentative thesis and outline.
- Draft the paper.
- Visit the writing center to get help with ideas for revision.
- Do further research if necessary.
- Revise the paper.
- Prepare a list of works cited.
- Type and proofread the final draft.

# Keys to writing for success

READ!

Know your audience

Brainstorm words/images

Write with your eyes shut

Write with background music

Give yourself permission to be emotional

Write what you know

Research

Use strong verbs and nouns

Publish!

Keep a dictionary handy

Use humor

Choose a beckoning title

Read your work aloud

Find an editor

Use correct spelling/punctuation/grammar

# RESOURCES

- The Michigan Tech Writing Center

- Services

- Discuss reading assignments
- Prepare applications, resumes, business letters
- Rehearse oral presentations
- Design visual arguments
- Work on using and integrating sources to support your argument
- Practice pronunciation if English is not your native language
- Study teams for World Cultures and Gen Ed classes
- Discuss documentation/citation

- Hours

- Mon-Thurs: 9am – 5pm / Friday: 9am – 4pm
- Walk-In Hours: Mon-Fri: 11am – 3pm

# RESOURCES

- Michigan Tech J. Robert Van Pelt and Opie Library  
— <http://www.lib.mtu.edu>
- 50 Free Resources That Will Improve Your Writing Skills  
— <http://www.tinyurl.com/m8rzbw>
- A Guide to Indispensable Writing Resources  
— <http://www.enhancemywriting.com>
- Dictionary.com Writing Resources  
— <http://www.dictionary.reference.com/writing>

Flower

of the Year

# Exercise

What will they  
write when  
you're gone  
???



and so i say  
to you today,  
friends of the  
dearly departed:  
he may be gone,  
BUT HIS GOATEE  
WILL LIVE ON!!

Thank you!

Kari L. Brown

[www.karibrown.com](http://www.karibrown.com)