

## **Top Writing Tips**

### **Dave Chua encourages us to get rid of distractions...**

In this age of distraction you have to make time to write. Lock yourself away, turn off your phone, messenger and get off facebook. Just focus on writing for 20 to 30 minutes. You'll find that you'll be able to concentrate better. You might want to take a short break, load up on coffee, do some stretches for 15 minutes and then do another spurt of writing.

It's also important to find a schedule that works better for you. Some writers prefer to write in the morning, while others work best late at night. It's good to develop a routine as you find the time to write.

While you're writing, curb the edge to self-edit and just let your words flow out. It's easier for you to get into the flow of writing. If you're surrounded by distractions you'll find that putting down 500 words can be like squeezing water from a stone.

Writing is an art, and like any other form of art, doing it more often will improve your skill in it. It takes a long time to develop your voice in writing and it can be a frustrating experience, but every word you write will help your writing develop.

Different writers have different approaches to writing. Some write sequentially, while I'm more of an organic writer, writing bits of the story all over the place and then bringing it together as I revise and redraft. One thing that's important to me is having an ending to the story, because I need to know where it's going as I start. It doesn't mean you have to stick with the ending you have. As your story gradually takes shape, the ending can, and undoubtedly will change, but the sense of a direction that this ending gives is important.