

Voice

*Voice separates writing that is read from writing that is not read...
Voice is the writer revealed.*

- Donald Murray

Voice is **YOU** coming through your writing. It's what gives your writing *personality, flavor, style* - a sound all its own. Only you can give your writing this special touch because no one else sees the world quite the way you do. Pretty neat, huh? Your voice is as distinctively yours as your fingerprints.

Honesty is important to create voice in your writing. You must say what you truly think and feel - not what you think someone else might want to hear. This takes courage. You must write from the inside out - from the part of you that's in touch with your feelings. This means you need to know yourself, listen to yourself, and trust those thoughts and feelings. Sometimes the very act of writing will help you discover what you truly think and feel. It's risky, a bit scary, and exciting, too.

Think about your reader as you write. Write directly to that person just as if he or she was standing there talking to you. Be yourself. Don't try to impress the reader. Readers will respond to your sincerity, honesty, and conviction.

Are you doing a paper on sea urchins? bungee jumping? geometric shapes? lightning? dancing? Write with **confidence**, as if you know what you're talking about and it is **utterly fascinating**; your enthusiasm will be contagious and will draw the reader into your writer's web of ideas and feelings.

Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader - not the fact that it's raining, but the feel of being rained upon.

- E. L. Doctorow