



## Some writing guidelines:

Always start with your characters first. What do they like, what do they dislike? What are their goals? What do they love to do and what do they hate to do. While you may have an idea as to what the story should be, it should ultimately come from the characters' interactions and motivations.

Make the setting to suit the characters and the theme that you are writing about. This is especially true if you are writing fantasy or science fiction, because you can shape the setting in any number of ways to meet your needs.

Write as it comes to you. One mistake many first-time writers make is that they start at the beginning and then work to the end. Instead, write each thing as you think of it. You can (and should) rearrange it in the story so it fits. Many people start with a really neat scene that they came up with or even a single line that they liked, so they can start anywhere, even the end.

Don't be afraid to change things as you go. You'll find that the story and characters will seem to want to do things other than what you want them to. This is your brain telling you that your original ideas may not work as well as you had hoped. Change things around. A good story should not only surprise the reader, but the writer as well.

Seek out criticism. If someone tells you they don't like something, and gives you a good reason, take their advice. Did you do that on purpose? Does it help the story? Or does it change everything? You will likely need to rewrite a story several times.

Write constantly and read even more!

## Some useful resources

On writing:

Chandler, Raymond. *Simple Art of Murder, The*. 1950. MYSTERY CHAN

King, Stephen. *On Writing*. B KING

On comics:

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics*. 1994. 741.5 MACC

McCloud, Scott. *Reinventing Comics*. 2000. 741.5 MACC

McCloud, Scott. *Making Comics*. 2006. 741.5 MACC

Van Lente, Fred. *Comic Book History of Comics*. 741.53 VANL

Public domain comics (mostly from the 30s to the 50s):

Digital Comic Museum (<http://digitalcomicmuseum.com/>)

The ultimate writer's resource:

TV Tropes (<http://tvtropes.org/>)

Beginning writers should start here: <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/SoYouWantTo/SeeTheIndex>

Free writer's tools:

Take notes that sync on all your devices: Evernote (<https://evernote.com/>)

A writer focused editor that also syncs: CeltX (<https://www.celtx.com/>)

Make your handwriting into a Font: <http://www.myscriptfont.com/>

This was brought to you by Old Sins (<http://oldsins.com>)