

Writing Tips From [Hollis Robbins](#)

1. Name your reader(s) at the top of the page. You can erase the name(s) later.
2. Understand that your readers should have a strong understanding of your point simply by reading the first sentence of every paragraph. Think of the first sentence of each paragraph as a headline. You can go back and make this happen in your later revisions if it is slowing your writing.
3. Avoid pronouns in the first sentence of a paragraph.
4. Use figures of speech. Here's just a few::

Anapodoton: deliberately creating a sentence fragment by the omission of a clause: "If only you came with me!" If only students knew what anapodoton was! Good writers never use sentence fragments? Ah, but they can. And they do. When appropriate.

Anastrophe (a turning back): Inversion of natural word order (adjective/noun) ("noises mysterious") (Yoda does this in a broader way, called Hyperbaton: a generic term for changing the normal or expected order of words. "One ad does not a survey make.")

Antanaclasis: Repetition of a word in two different senses ("let dead bury the dead").

Antimetabole: Repetition in reverse order: "One should eat to live, not live to eat." Or, "You like it; it likes you." (See Macbeth: "Fair is foul and foul is fair.")

Aposeiopesis: breaking off a dialogue as if reluctant to continue ("I cannot go on...")

Asyndeton: a device whereby conjunctions, pronouns, and articles are eliminated to achieve economy and compactness ("I came, I saw, I conquered;" "He sat, ate, swallowed.")

Auxesis: to amplify effect by repetition of a phrase ("His house was new, his lawn was new, his bike was new")

5. Find friends that you send drafts to and welcome ALL their criticism.