

Hello!

This is a frequently updating list of writing-related resources and links maintained by me, Tiffany S. (aka Jerenda).

Please note that many of these resources I have only skimmed. I have not personally vetted every article or every page in the resources listed. If you find something objectionable, leave a comment letting me know, preferably with a direct link to the objectionable content. Scroll to the bottom for what to do if you have a suggestion and for acknowledgements.

Share this resource list! <http://tinyurl.com/Jen-s-writing-resources>

General Research Materials

- [A general writing Q&A site](#)
- [A different list of writing resources](#)
- [Link list % Scrivener](#)
- [@Fandumbgirl's Pinterest Writing Board](#)
 - [Writer's Mantle \(Discord Server\) List of Resources](#)
- [A compilation of resources](#) by Gianna Robbins
- [/r/WritingResources](#)

Grammar

- [How to Punctuate Dialogue](#) by Jerenda (ask if you want homework!)
- [Grammar Girl](#)
- [Adjective and Adverb Advice](#) by /u/dimanagul (+comments!)

Write Every Day

- [Pacemaker Press](#)
- [Global word sprints](#)
 - [Sprint with the Writer's Lounge!](#)
- [SuperBetter](#) (a gamification community that helps you accomplish big goals)
- [NaNo Crawls](#)
 - [Extreme Harry Potter Crawl](#)
 - [Hamilton Musical Crawl](#)
- [Writing Prompts](#) by Writer's Digest
- [Truth From the Publishing Trenches](#) (YouTube video by trad. published author)

Help Writing Words

- [How to write with ADHD](#), a tumblr post with great concrete advice
- [Don't pray for rain. Write a desert.](#), a tumblr post about how to write without inspiration
- [Write or Die](#) (Free trial, \$20 purchase)
- [750 Words](#) (a daily freewriting exercise, comes with fun stats, \$5/month after free trial)
- [4theWords](#) (a gamification site that rewards you when you write, \$4/month after free trial)
- [Fog](#) (a web-based app that hides what you've written, for the perfectionists who can't stop revising)
- [Writing Forward](#) (lots of writing prompts and encouragement to keep writing)
- [Cold Turkey Writer](#) (a downloadable program that blocks *literally everything* until a certain amount of time has elapsed or you've written a certain number of words, free version available)

Writers Telling You To Write Every Day

- [Neil Gaiman's writing advice](#)
- [Inspiration vs. Habit](#) by Octavia Butler
- [Just finish it](#) by J. K. Rowling

Learn About Writing

- [Brandon Sanderson's Master's Class on Writing](#)
 - [Notes on Sanderson's Class](#) by @Vreya
 - [Sanderson's Three Laws of Magic](#)
- [James Alan Gardner's Seminar on Writing Prose](#) (text form)
 - Also see [Gardner's Writing Advice](#)
- [All the NaNo pep talks](#)
 - [Sanderson NaNo pep talk](#)
 - [The Darkest Hour - N. K. Jemisin NaNo pep talk](#)
- [NaNo Prep resources](#)
- [Camp NaNo Q&A](#) (getting started, "how do I...?")
- [Tomi Adeyemi's Free Writing Courses](#)
- [Springhole.net](#) (a collection of writing advice articles, usually dead-on and entertaining)
- [TV Trope's \(surprisingly informative\) So You Want To... Index](#) (big-picture how to write)
 - Recommend starting at [So You Want to Write a Story...](#)
- [E.L. Drayton's bookshelf of writing help books](#) plus [two more](#)
- [Taking a Comic from Start to Finish](#) by E. Waterman (contains advice for writers as well)
- [Story Structure Worksheets](#) (Resource List)
- [Pixar in a Box: The Art of Storytelling](#) by Khan Academy (in progress)
- [Limyaael Rants](#) by Limyaael (primarily applies to very new and/or fanfic writers)

- [Justine Larbalestier's Blog](#) (contains lots of advice for pantsers)
 - [How to Write a Novel](#) (a somewhat tongue-in-cheek post)
 - [General Writing Process Posts](#)
 - [On Stealing Ideas](#)
 - [On Description vs. Prescription when Critiquing](#)
 - [Writing Your First Novel](#)
- [How to Fight Write](#) (a blog with lots of writing advice from martial arts experts)

Podcasts & Youtube Channels

- [Writing Excuses](#) (Jerenda's favorite, 15-20 minutes of short advice to help you run out of excuses to not write)
- [Start Writing: Wasted Words and How to Find Them](#)
- [Chris Fox's Youtube Channel](#)
- [The Well-Storied Podcast](#) by blogger Kristen Kieffer
- [Writer, Writer, Pants on Fire](#) by author Mindy McGinnis
- [Print Run](#) by literary agents Laura Zats and Erik Hane

I only have time to read one thing

- [Writing, Briefly](#) by Paul Graham
- [TED Talk: The clues to a great story](#) by Andrew Stanton
- [How to Get Your Reader to Root for Your Antagonist](#) via Reddit
- [Comic Writing Advice](#) by E. Waterman (also great for writers)
- [The Elements of Suspense](#)
- [How to Outline](#) by Jenna Morecei (video, part one of two)
- [Studying the Waking Up Scene: Is it Really That Bad?](#) (also breaks down what you need in an opening scene)
- [Read Like a Writer](#) by Mike Bunn (PDF, oriented toward college study but helpful for fiction as well)
- [The Three Types of Stakes that Drive Novels](#)
- [Dialogue Tips](#) (unsourced, willing to provide cookie to anyone who can identify the book)

Books about Writing

- On Writing by Stephen King
- 100 Ways To Improve Your Writing by Gary Provost (pocket-sized, straightforward tips)
- Story Fix by Larry Brooks (good for revisions)
- Strunk and White's Elements of Style (foundational)
- The Anatomy of Story by John Truby (dense, but very good for story structure)

Misc. Videos about Writing I'm Too Lazy to Transcribe

- [Alan Moore's advice to writers](#)
- [SDCC writing panel with Joe Abercrombie, Diana Gabaldon, Lev Grossman, George R. R. Martin, and Patrick Rothfuss](#)
- [Patrick Rothfuss on The Library Talks](#)

What if I need...

Settings

General

- [/r/Worldbuilding's Resources Master List](#)
- [A worldbuilding Q&A site](#)
 - Their blog, [Universe Factory](#)
- [Ambient sounds for settings](#)
- [Our World in Data](#)
- [A Pinterest Board for Locations](#) by Jarod Taylor
- Create a [Rational Magic System](#) or an [Eclectic One](#) (NOT hard/soft, but still useful)
- [Patricia C. Wrede's Worldbuilding Questions](#)

Specific

- [Medieval Fantasy City Generator](#) (a good starter for cities)
- [Unique Histories From the 18th & 19th Centuries](#) by Geri Walton
- [1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue](#) by Francis Grose (via Project Gutenberg)
- [List of \(real\) Pirates](#) and [Fictional Pirates](#) via Wikipedia
- [Rejected Princesses: Women too Awesome, Awful, or Offbeat for Kid's Movies](#)

Names & Characters

- [How to Make Names that Don't Suck](#) (video)
- [A Handy Three-Part Guide on Naming Fantasy Characters](#) ([Part Two](#), [Part Three](#))
- [Name Generators](#) (also check out the Guides tab)
- [Behind the Name](#) (for questionably accurate name meanings)
 - [Behind the Surname](#) (extremely limited database of last names)
- [CharaHub](#) (a character database)
- [Everything You Need for Creating Characters](#) (Resource List)
- [Seventh Sanctum](#) (a slightly ridiculous amount of generators)
- [Fantasy Name Generators](#) (same)
- [A Pinterest Board with Character Designs](#) by Jarod Taylor
- [Character Sketch Template](#) by Jerenda

- [Questions for Characters & Creators](#)

Genealogy

- [Family Echo](#) (simplified create your own tree)
- [The Genogram](#) (extremely complex tree to indicate any number of relationship types and other biographical data)

More Exciting Words

- [Why Said is a Good Word](#) by Chris Freese on Writer's Digest
 - Just remember, a \$10 word isn't always better than a 10-cent word. Use the one that actually means what you need to say, not fanciest or most exciting one.
- [128 Words to Use Instead of "Very"](#) (image)
- [More Precise Emotion Words](#) (image)
- [VisuWords](#) (a beautiful visual thesaurus - move the bubbles around the screen or hover to see definitions)
- [Power Thesaurus](#) (free crowdsourced thesaurus)
- [Word Associations Network](#) (categorizes related words by type, lots of definitions)
- [Human Brain Cloud](#) (a non-scientific crowdsourced game: play or browse)
- [Visual Thesaurus](#) (\$20/year or \$3/month, lots of definitions and various options to increase functionality, along with fun articles about words)

Ambient Sounds/Music to Write to

- [Nature Ambience and Soothing Sounds](#)
- [Fantasy and Sci-Fi Battles](#)
- [Meditation and Relaxation](#)

Do the Research

- [Google Like a Boss](#)

Writing with Color

- [Writing with Color Tumblr](#)
 - [Descriptive words for non-white people](#)
- [A color thesaurus](#) (not just skin tones)
- [Skin tones & undertones](#) (with pictures!)
- [YA books about POC by POC](#)
- [On the problems of submitting to SFF markets while black](#)

Writing about Other Minority Groups

- [Neurodiversity vs Neurodivergence \(and other neuroterms\)](#)

Crazy Questions Writers Ask

- [ScriptMedic](#) (a medical tumblog for writers)
 - [Broken Ribs: A Primer](#)
- [Realistic Wound Types & How to Treat Them](#)
- [How to Fight Write](#) (a tumblog of how to write fight scenes)
- [How to Write Fight Scenes](#) by R. A. Salvatore

Critique & Writing Groups

- For groups in your area, use [Meetup](#). If you live in Utah, consider joining [my group](#).
 - [Wasatch Writers Fellowship Blog](#) & [Facebook page](#)
- Join the [Wasatch Writers Fellowship on Discord](#), my writing group
 - Or [search for a Discord writing group](#) more to your taste
- [Hatrack Critique Forums](#) (first 13 lines)
- [Critters](#) (very big, very helpful online group)
- [AbsoluteWrite Forums](#)

How to Critique

- [Critters Diplomacy Guidelines](#)
- [Writing Excuses: Training a Critique Group](#)
- [But I don't know how to Critique!](#) by V. Anne Arden
- [How to critique fiction](#) by Victory Crayne
- [Be Detailed: Questions to Ask When Critiquing](#)
- Coming soon: Jerenda's Four Pillars of Effective Critiques!
 - [JL's commentary on Describe, don't Prescribe](#)

Revision

- [12 Contemporary Writers on How They Revise](#)
- [6 Ways to Edit Objectively](#)
- [How do I gain sufficient emotional distance from my work to edit it?](#)
- [How do I know when my work is ready for critique?](#)
- [A Lexicon of Things that Could be Wrong with Your Sci-Fi \(or other\) Story](#)
- [Everything \[NaNos\] Know About Editing](#)

- [#1 Novel Mistakes from Top Editors](#)
- [Types of Book Editing Services](#)
- [51 Things That Break Reader Immersion \(with examples!\)](#)
- [Holly's Writing Classes](#) (not cheap)
 - [How to Revise Your Novel](#) (very not cheap)

Unnecessary Software

- [Scrivener](#) (that's what I use, \$40 or \$20 if you win NaNo)
- [Aeon Timeline](#) (visual timelines)
- [Microscope](#) (a fun worldbuilding "game", \$10-20)
- [Write or Die](#) (Free trial, \$20 purchase)
- [yWriter](#) (free to use, similar to Scrivener)
- [SuperNotecard](#) (notecard-based plotting, free or \$25/year)
- [KeepNote](#) (designed for school but can be used for plotting/characters, free)
- [Story-Matic](#) (\$30 card-based writing prompt set, [for writers page](#))
- [WriteoMeter](#) (free Android app)
- [5 Games to Help You Brainstorm](#) by Michael F. Haspil via Tor.com

Publishing

- [Landing Freelance Jobs](#) by RentMyWords
- [Reasons People Reject Manuscripts](#) (aka what might be wrong with your novel) by Natalie Zutter
- [/r/PubTips](#) (updates with Habits & Traits from a literary agent's assistant)
 - [Red Flags in Publishing](#)
- [Jane Friedman](#) (an editor with 20+ years of experience)
 - [Start Here: How to Get Your Book Published](#)
 - [How Do You Know if Your Agent is Any Good?](#)
 - [Should You Self-Publish or Traditionally Publish?](#)
- [How I Self-Published my Comic Books](#) by Texan in Tokyo (video, includes information about Amazon preorders)
- [The Difference Between Literary, Upmarket, & Commercial Fiction](#) (infographic)
- [Pub Rants](#) by Nelson Literary Agency (blog, really good info)
 - [Questions to Ask When An Agent Offers Rep](#) by Nelson Literary Agency
- [NameChk.com](#) (a website that searches handles/usernames to check availability)

Scams & Theft

Scams

- *A scammer is someone looking to take your money, typically by "publishing" you and demanding you pay for a majority of their services and/or buy your own book.*

- [Writer Beware](#) (the SFWA's resource on how to determine if a publisher is legit or a scammer looking to take your money)
- [Critic's Scamming Guide](#)
- [AAR](#) (nonprofit agent association - does your agent belong?)

Theft

- *If you are worried about someone taking your ideas or your work, and if this is preventing you from getting feedback on your work or sharing it, the below should help.*
- [Will An Editor Steal my Ideas?](#) by Moria Allen
- [Are you Worried Your Ideas Will be Stolen?](#) by Jane Friedman
- [Don't Worry About Other Writers Stealing Your Ideas](#) by Ava Jae

Submission Packages

- [QueryShark](#) (by an actual agent)
- [The Intern](#) (query advice from a literary agent's intern)
- [How to Synopsis](#) by the Intern
- [Twitter Pitch Advice](#) by T@swingstorm
- [Tor's Submission Process](#) (unagented, not recommended... just my dream...)
- [Fun Synopsis Wizard](#) (a good kick-start to your synopsis process)

Markets

- [Writing Career](#)
- [The Grinder](#)
- [Writer's Market](#) (subscription-only Yellow Pages of publishing)
 - [The Writer's Market Book](#) (2017, the [deluxe edition](#) comes with a year's subscription to their website)
 - [Writer's Digest](#) (informational articles)
- [Publisher's Marketplace](#) (sales reports, publisher listings, etc)
- [Reedsy - Vetted Writing Contests](#)
- [NewPages](#) (conferences, contests, other events)

Having Published (Someday)

- [Debut Author Lessons](#) by Mary Robinette Kowal
- [Gail Carriger's Master List of Convention Tips](#)

Promotion

- [279 Days: How to Become a Pro Blogger in 10 Months](#) by Chris Guillebeau
- [InstaFreebie](#) (offer work for free in exchange for readers signing up for your mailing list, recommended plan \$20/month)
- [ComixLaunch](#) (tips about marketing and kickstarting)

Specific to *Changeling*

Changeling is the working title of my novel. These things may or may not be useful to you.

- [Single-Bamboo Water Drifting](#) (crazy things Polthyians can do)
- [N. K. Jemisin's Patreon](#) (I want...)
- [How Dogs See the World](#)
- [Desert Clothing](#)
- [Fancy Nails](#)
- [Native-Land.ca](#) Indigenous people across the world

Mental Disorders

- [23 Things About Bipolar Disorder Nobody Talks About](#)
- [Jelly Donuts, Sweet Little Liars & Crazy People](#)
- [John Green on having OCD](#)

Namings

- [Tribe-specific Native American Names](#)
- [Native American Languages](#) (+ some names)

Acknowledgements & Suggestions

Thanks to everyone who's pointed out resources for me to add to the guide. In some cases, these people have created resources I've added, but mostly these thanks are for bringing valuable resources to my attention.

If you have a primary website or a preferred name, I'd be happy to add it here. Most names are Discord usernames. In no particular order:

- Re Reichel's [professional website](#)
- E. L. Drayton's [Twin Crossing books](#)
- E. Waterman
- IceQueen
- ArthurCole's [Wordpress blog](#)
- Fandumbgirl's [blog](#)
- Renesco
- PyrothTenka's [FanFiction.net profile](#)
- Igornerd's [FanFiction.net profile](#)
- Gwen's [FanFiction.net profile](#), [Archive of Our Own profile](#)
- D3's [FanFiction.net profile](#)
- Caolan Vane (aka Oracle)

- Alina's [Tumblr](#)
- Gianna Robbins (aka Shancora)'s [Tumblr](#) and [photoblog](#)
- Thomas Castle (aka Cat)'s [author website](#) and [Smashwords profile](#)
- Aurora Stormwind's [NaNo profile](#)
- Sora
- Windee
- Jarod Taylor (aka Havency)'s [Pinterest](#)
- Strangerine
- Aureline

If you have a suggestion, feel free to leave it as a comment here, DM @Jerenda#8625 on Discord, or send me an email at *sablesam -at- gmail.com*.