

Experimental Writing Workbook

Introduction

This workbook contains a series of exercises designed to help you explore unconventional storytelling, break creative boundaries, and find your unique narrative voice.

Exercise 1: Stream of Consciousness Burst

Prompt: Write a single page in first person, stream-of-consciousness style. Don't censor, don't edit. Let the thoughts tumble out without punctuation or organization.

Optional Focus: Grief, joy, confusion, or obsession.

Exercise 2: Write a Story in Reverse

Prompt: Start with the ending and work backward, paragraph by paragraph. How did the story arrive at this conclusion?

Challenge: Include at least three time jumps.

Exercise 3: Break the Fourth Wall

Prompt: Write a scene where the narrator directly addresses the reader. Try to involve them in the story or warn them of something to come.

Tone Options: Sarcastic, ominous, or self-aware.

Exercise 4: Shift Perspective Midway

Prompt: Begin in first person, then switch to third person without transition. How does the reader's understanding of the character change?

Try writing the same scene twice-once from each point of view.

Exercise 5: Visual Form Challenge

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Prompt: Create a short story where the layout of the text mirrors the content. For example:

- A spiral-shaped poem for a dizzy character
- Words that narrow on the page as tension builds
- Bold or fading fonts for emotional intensity

Exercise 6: The Missing Chapter

Prompt: Write a short story with an obviously missing chapter. Refer to it in footnotes, dialogue, or as redacted content. Let the reader imagine what was "deleted."

Exercise 7: Endless Loop Scene

Prompt: Write a scene where the same few lines repeat or echo with small changes each time. Think of it like a literary time loop.

Exercise 8: Genre Mashup Mini-Story

Prompt: Write a 300-word story that blends at least two genres (e.g., noir + sci-fi, romance + horror, poetry + memoir).

Bonus: Break Your Own Rule

Write down a writing "rule" you always follow. Now, write a piece that deliberately breaks it.

Examples:

- No adverbs -> Use only adverbs
- Show, don't tell -> Tell everything bluntly
- Always write in past tense -> Write in future tense

Reflection Page

After each exercise, answer:

- What felt uncomfortable or freeing?
- Did anything surprise you about your writing?

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- Could this technique serve a story idea you're working on?