

What is a Writer's Voice?

According to Peter Elbow:

“Voice... is what most people have in their speech but lack in their writing.”

“Voice, in writing, implies words that capture the sound of an individual on the page.”

“Writing with voice is writing into which someone has breathed...writing *without voice* is wooden or dead because it lacks sounds, rhythm, energy, and individuality.”

You may make use of the following strategies to create VOICE in your writing:

- language use (formal, informal, slang, dialogue)
- clear and passionate tone
- effective diction
- imagery/figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole)
- emphatic devices:
 - punctuation (! ? – ()...)
 - capitalization
 - font (**bold**, underlined, *italicized*, etc.)
 - repetition
 - parallel structure (repeated patterns of words/phrases)
 - listing
 - short sentences
 - sentence fragments

Your writing voice is your unique
Personality on the printed page.



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