

# Becoming a better writer in 5 steps:

## Write

No one became a great writer without writing. You have to put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard and begin. Don't worry if it's "good" writing – that can come later – just write! "Bad" writing can become better writing, but a blank page cannot. Set aside time to write – you won't "find" it – you have to "make" it. In the words of author, P.D.James, "Don't just plan to write – write."

## Read

Good writers read – a lot. Read not just the type of writing you aspire to, but all kinds of writing. Read good writing and notice the construction and phrasing. How are words used creatively? Author Stephen King said, "If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that." Learn writing by reading. Reading makes you a better writer.

## Observe

Observe the world around you and write about your observations and your life experiences. Life is rich – the happy, the tragic, and everything in between – use it to write better. Audiences love to read, hear, and see real-life stories. "Life experiences make better writers. Think of them like a bank account you can draw from." Dr. Mark Tucker

## Review and revise

Never accept your first draft – even texts and emails need proofreading and deserve revision. After writing, set your work aside. Come back later and review. Get feedback from others. Check grammar, clarity, unnecessary words, examples, readability, and more. Embrace the editing process and revise – not until your writing is perfect, until it's worth reading.

## Keep writing.

Keep writing. Every day. The more you write the easier it gets. Writing is work and some days it's harder than others, but don't quit. Keep writing and keep learning and never stop. That is how you can become a better writer: Write. Read. Observe. Review and revise. Keep writing.