



ABCs of Writing

A is for Aloud

After you are done writing your piece, read it **ALOUD**.

Chances are you will **HEAR** grammatical errors as you read. Read to the room, a pet, or a plant!

Look for places where you naturally paused. Is there a comma there? A period, or even a semicolon? Add it, if not.

You may not notice spelling errors the first time around, so read it more than once!

B is for Breathe

After you are done writing your piece, let it BREATHE.

This means let it sit for an hour or a day. When you come back to your work, it will be with fresh eyes.

You may need more time to process what you wrote, and any trouble spots may look different a day later.

This means you CANNOT wait until the last minute to complete any piece of writing! It won't have time to breathe.

C is for Consider Your Audience

You will do a lot of writing in your life. If you're lucky.

Writing a daily journal is different than writing an assigned essay, and even these differ. Are you writing a narrative, persuasive essay, or a note to someone?

You will want to be more formal in your writing when your teacher is going to be assessing it, but you still want your personality, *your voice*, to come out.

D is for Daily

The more you do something, the better you get. Practice makes perfect.

Write something every day, even if it's a different piece of writing. Make lists (you get to decide on the topic), journal about your day, or write a note to a friend, or even yourself!

Try new words (use a Dictionary, another D word!) when it doesn't count for a grade, and get familiar with them.

E is for Editing

This may not be the most enjoyable part of writing, but it's as essential as capturing your ideas in sentence/paragraph form!

Be open to change, and read (ALoud) with a pen or pencil in hand. You may not be able to make every bit of your story perfect, but you will get closer the more you check your work.

Ask yourself, "Is this the story I want to tell?"

F is for Friends

It's always a good idea to have a second or third set of eyes on a piece of writing. FRIENDS are a great resource, but friends have strengths in different areas. Just like you.

Maybe it's not your best friend, but someone you know is a strong speller. Ask them to check for that. Is someone else a great grammar checker? Ask them.

Don't let them change the heart of your story, but they can certainly work on the mechanics with you.

G is for Goals

Make GOALS for your writing. How much time do you want to spend daily? Or how many paragraphs, pages, or chapters do you want to accomplish each time you sit down to write?

The goals need to be reasonable in their achievability, whether it's time frame you set up, or the amount of words you set as a goal. Be positive you can meet this goal, and go for it!

H is for Have a Direction

I may not get to O or P, so here it is in H!

Have a direction in your writing before you begin. Plan the beginning, middle and end, gathering your ideas together in some sort of organizer.

You can still be open to new ideas as they come to you in the process. Even if you change an idea or two, you will still have a direction to follow.

I is for I

Please, please, please capitalize the letter I when you are using the first person.

I wrote a story is SO much better than *i wrote a story*.

Take it from a teacher, this is an important one.

Capital letters at the beginning of sentences are good. In the miDDle of a word, not so much.