



Writing Tip # 2: Carry a Notebook Everywhere

You may have already thought of this one, but I didn't at first. I took me a while to realize that there seems to be some kind of correlation between an amazing idea and the availability of something decent to write on and/or with. I'm not all that good with putting notes in my phone, and it turns out that a cold pen from your glovebox just rips receipts instead of writing on them.

After too many of those experiences, I started carrying a small notebook and a mechanical pencil in my purse so I can jot down that perfect line or setting detail before it fades away. My chances to write often come late at night or early in the morning, and I've found that having even just a quick note from when the idea was fresh in my mind helps me break through fatigue and get me back in the moment. All I have to do is open the Word document I created from my custom template (see Writing Tip # 1) and I can jump right in. As I work through the notes, I cross them out so the notebook doesn't become overwhelming.

Another great thing about always having a notebook with you is that you never know when you might get stuck waiting somewhere. A writer can be occupied for hours on end with just a pencil and a little bit of paper.

So maybe you can't write anything down while you're in the shower, driving, or doing your day job, but having a notebook within close reach makes sure you can capture those magical sparks as soon as you can reach a towel, park your car, or take a break.

Write on!