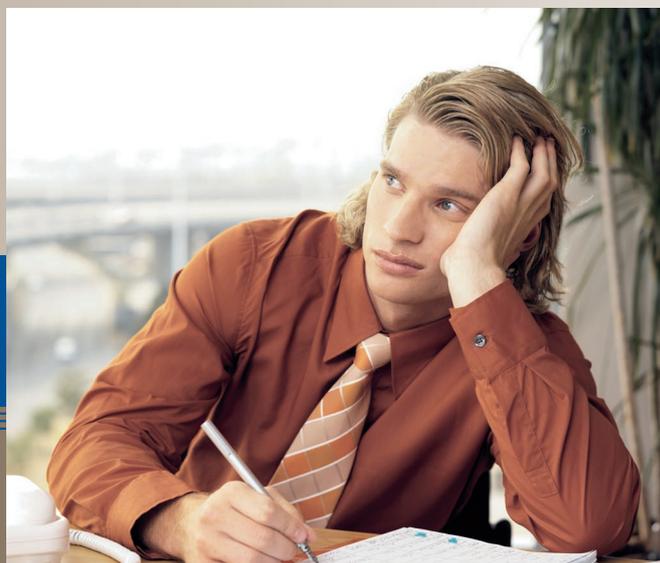


presents **TEN** *tips*

on
Short Story Writing



1

Concentrate on your opening sentence
This is where you will grab the attention of the reader.

2

Write as if to a friend
A story has to read easily and should sound great when read aloud.

3

Use simple sentences
Readers do not read more than 25 words before they are distracted. Use no more than 15 - 20 words per sentence.

4

Alternate long sentences
Use sentences of 4 - 5 words, or even a single word. It creates an impact and makes reading easier.

5

Make paragraphs of 3 - 4 sentences
Small paragraphs will entice the reader to go on... and on... and on...

6

Look at the verbs you use
Are they strong or weak? Compare 'he yelled at the top of his voice' with 'he called out'.

7

Use the 4 W's
What, Where, Why and When. There is a 5th W - Whether. Decide whether you should use a word. EDIT!

8

Believe in your characters
If you don't, how can your reader? Your story should have one main character and no more than one or two secondary characters. Only mention characteristics or outward appearance if it adds to the story.

9

Check the rules
If you are entering a contest, check the rules. You don't want to be rejected for an incorrect format, or for using too many words.

10

One idea - one story
When you have finished, use your red pencil and edit again. Sometimes it helps to put the story aside for a time and then look at it with fresh eyes.