

Tues May 23 2pm EST Lab Notes

Notes for FFA founders:

How to make a book blurb?

What course do you recommend next?

I cant find any agenda for any of the courses on line

I think it would be cool to have critique groups where we break into smaller groups and troubleshoot projects

What is the purpose of the Future Fiction Academy? I can't find anything about it.

Re Sudowrite: I have a subscription to Sudowrite. Do I need to do anything special/different (or pay more) to get Story Engine?

Notes for subscribers:

Steph recommends ProWritingAid and used to use Grammarly.com.

Anthropic's Claude and OpenAI's Chat GPT the two biggest chat bots on the market today.

How to access Claude:

https://join.slack.com/t/writersusingclaude/shared_invite/zt-1v1govu1y-KgXZINHkKOp_k4MH2vNyvg Our Slack so that you can use Anthropic's Claude. This is Steph's Slack, not just for FFA members.

You can also access Claude through the app Poe.

Claude Instant in Poe is like ChatGpt 3.5.

Claude can be a bit flowery with its prose.

Claude is less verbose when it comes to a big prompt, about 500 words for a response.

Claude creates the better prose but in smaller chunks. So prompt it a scene or part of a scene because the output is around 500 words.

The Claude 100k version means it can read a lot and put it in its memory but the output is still around 500 words. It will remember more things about your story, is the benefit.

Claude is better at tugging heart strings, so Steph will take the blurb ChatGpt made and have Claude make it better.

Q: If we access Claude from the Slack group, is that private? or does everyone on the Slack group see it?

Yes it's private when you direct message the Claude bot and no one else sees it, not even the Slack admin.

You can access Claude in the public channels in Slack, and everyone will see the prompts and responses.

How to access Chat GPT:

<https://chat.openai.com>

Great at brainstorming, marketing material, book blurbs.

GPT4 is better at the tone for dark romance.

Q: How would you structure the prompt to get a "hookier" opening from Claude?

You: can you please write 5 loglines about this book too? Yes, please write in the same way to highlight the struggle and really hook a reader. I would like for you to rewrite them to be less salesy. They need to tug at someone's emotions and really hook them.

Steph put the same prompt into both AI to show their differences.

You: Give me 5 story ideas for a space opera novel about a bakery shop owner on a remote space station. Let's include an alien pet, a mystery, and a ex-boyfriend.

AI: "Galactic Glazes and Grave Mysteries": As the renowned owner of a bakery shop on a distant space station, Alexia possesses a unique gift to detect hidden flavors and unlock secrets within her pastries. When a customer drops dead after consuming one of her creations, Alexia finds herself at the center of a mysterious murder investigation. With the help of her alien pet, a shapeshifting creature with an uncanny ability to sniff out the truth, she delves into a web of intrigue, discovering long-lost recipes, dark alliances, and a surprising connection between the deceased and her ex-boyfriend, a disgraced former space detective.

You: I like these ideas! Let's expand on #2. Can you give me a list of characters and a rough outline of this book.

You: Can you expand the rough outline to about 30 parts or chapters? Please be detailed.

You: I would like for you to write the first chapter of this book. Here is my style guide for writing. Please use this style guide to write your prose.

1. Varied sentence structure and length: Use a mix of short and long sentences, as well as different sentence structures, to create a more engaging and dynamic flow of words.
2. Breaking literary rules when it benefits the situation: Don't be afraid to bend or break conventional writing rules when it enhances the story, adds depth, or captures the reader's interest.
3. Realistic and believable dialogue with common human quirks: Craft dialogue that reflects natural speech patterns, without overusing idiomatic expressions or colloquialisms.
4. Pacing tricks that fit the scene: Adjust the pacing of the story to match the intensity of the scene, using shorter sentences and paragraphs for action-packed moments and longer, more descriptive passages for slower, introspective scenes.
5. Show, don't tell: Describe characters' actions and reactions to convey their emotions and thoughts, rather than explicitly stating them.
6. Use a balance of descriptive language and straightforward narration: Combine rich descriptions with simple and clear narration to create a more engaging and readable text.
7. Maintain a consistent tone: Ensure that the tone of the writing is consistent throughout the passage, avoiding sudden shifts in formality or style.
8. Intelligently shuffle and rephrase the text: Alter the sentence structure, introduce synonyms or paraphrase, and adjust the arrangement of words and phrases in a sentence, as well as the relationships between them, to create subtle variations in the structure of the text.
9. Use informal language with some sass and sarcasm: This will help people connect with Tilli.

10. Avoid using the following words: that, feel/feeling/felt, back, just, then, all, look, maybe, knew/know, say/says/said.
11. Avoid using adverbs: Instead, use strong verbs.
12. Use euphonic words, onomatopoeia, alliteration, and strong similes: Bring more life to the prose with these but use them sparingly throughout the text.