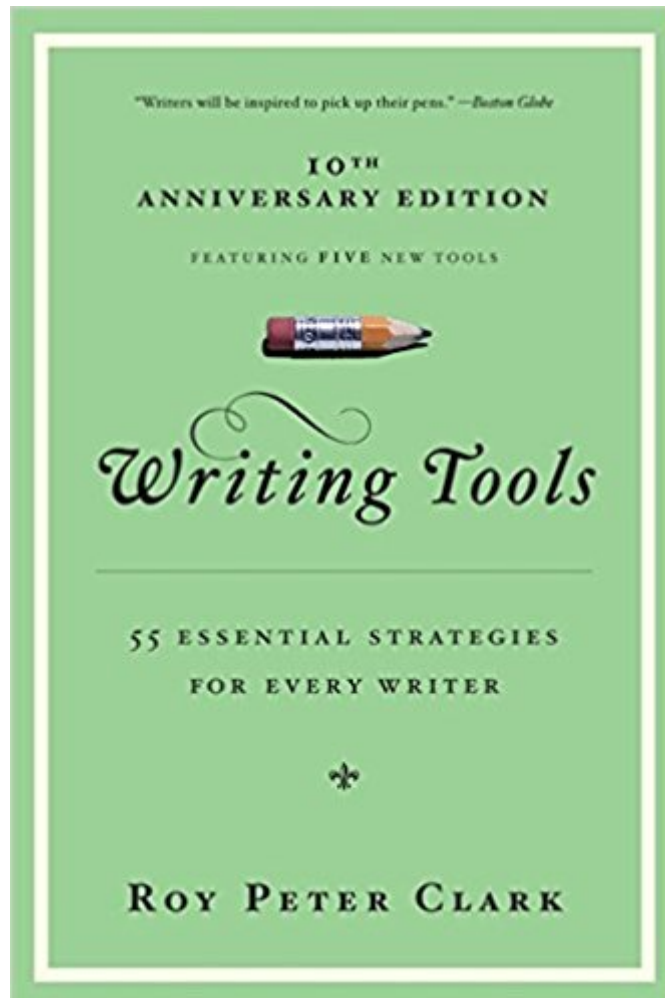




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# Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies For Every Writer



## Synopsis

A special 10th anniversary edition of Roy Peter Clark's bestselling guide to writing, featuring five bonus tools. Ten years ago, Roy Peter Clark, America's most influential writing teacher, whittled down almost thirty years of experience in journalism, writing, and teaching into a series of fifty short essays on different aspects of writing. In the past decade, *Writing Tools* has become a classic guidebook for novices and experts alike and remains one of the best loved books on writing available. Organized into four sections, "Nuts and Bolts," "Special Effects," "Blueprints for Stories," and "Useful Habits," *Writing Tools* is infused with more than 200 examples from journalism and literature. This new edition includes five brand new, never-before-shared tools. Accessible, entertaining, inspiring, and above all, useful for every type of writer, from high school student to novelist, *Writing Tools* is essential reading.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Covering the writing waterfront-from basics on verb tense to the value of forming a "support group"-Poynter Institute vice president Clark offers tips, tricks and techniques for anyone putting fingers to keyboard. The best assets in Clark's book are in the "workshop" sections that conclude each chapter and list strategies for incorporating the material covered in each lesson (minimize adverbs, use active verbs, read your work aloud). Though some suggestions are classroom campy ("Listen to song lyrics to hear how the language moves on the ladder of abstraction" and "With some friends, take a big piece of chart paper and with colored markers draw a diagram of your writing

process"), Clark's blend of instruction and exercise will prove especially useful for teachers. One exercise, for instance, suggests reading the newspaper and marking the location of subjects and verbs. Another provides a close reading of a passage from *The Postman Always Rings Twice* to look at the ways word placement and sentence structure can add punch to prose. Clark doesn't intend his guide to be a replacement for classic style guides like *Elements of Style*, but as a companion volume, it does the trick. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Spiral-bound edition.

The author, vice president of the Poynter Institute School of Journalism, wants you to understand that a tool isn't the same thing as a rule. A tool is something designed to help you, not constrict you. The 50 tools discussed here take writers through the process of storytelling in prose, from the basic (construct a sentence with a subject and a verb) to the advanced (make your characters archetypes, not stereotypes). Many of Clark's rules are technical, having to do with such matters as punctuation and tense, but some of them are more thematically oriented (for example, discussions of the proper uses of foreshadowing and suspense). Use the tools when you like, the author says, and throw them away when it suits you. Just know what it is you're throwing away and why. This is a useful tool for writers at all levels of experience, and it's entertainingly written, with plenty of helpful examples. David Pitt Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Spiral-bound edition.

I've read "Writing Tools" -twice, in the past two weeks; hungry for every bit of advice how to improve my writing skills. I'll read it again, and again, for that reason I'm pleased I bought this book in the Kindle version. Superb reading.

I am a better writer today, just from reading this book

My favorite book that I've used for years to inspire writing. I wanted the spiral bound version so I could refer to it as I write. Works beautifully. This book lifts the writer out of the ordinary rut and into a creative space. This version arrived quickly and in great condition. I am as happy as a hiker on the top of Half Dome.

This book belongs on every writer's shelf. Those of us that have amassed a library of writing books could easily cull 70 %, but not this volume. There are few guides that are as useful as "Writing

Tools". I dare say a copy given to every freshman in high school would greatly improve their prose for years to come; whatever profession they chose.

OK book I bought for a college class. Covers essentials of writing well.

Writing Tools is a fantastic book that can help any writer at any level, craft a better story. Clark explains universal tools to use whether you write for a newspaper, a blog or you're an author of epic fiction. A 'must read' for all writers.

Don't be fooled by Writing Tools' dull, unimaginative cover. Packed into this book are powerful techniques that will add life and energy to a writer's work, whether it is fiction or nonfiction. Though Roy Peter Clark is a journalist, he uses works from all genres as examples. The author doesn't talk down to the reader, rather he displays humility by crediting his previous mentors whenever an opportunity arises. For example: "I learned the distinction between active and passive voice as early as fifth grade. Thank you, Sister Katherine Williams." , "In graduate school, Don Fry helped me to see how my prose wilted under the weight of passive and 'to be' verbs.", "Carolyn Matalene, an influential writing teacher from South Carolina, taught me that when I write prose that the reader can neither see nor understand, I'm probably trapped halfway up the ladder of abstraction.", etc. After each chapter, Roy gives a list of suggested exercises that stimulate the writer's grey matter. An excellent book.

Great tool

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