



# November Writing Tips & Soul Care for Writers

*Edie Melson + DiAnn Mills*

As writers, one of the things we can neglect is our gratitude quotient. It's easy to get so caught up in striving that we forget to appreciate and enjoy the journey. So this month, instead of focusing on what we need to DO. We're going to provide 30 reasons to be thankful for being a writer.

## *30 Reasons to be a Thankful Writer*

- 1. We get to use our own experiences—good and bad—to impact others.** We've learned that we all share a lot of the same fears, hopes and struggles. Writing gives us a chance to share what we've been through and watch it impact others.
- 2. We hear voices in our heads and it's completely normal.** Not only is it normal, but it's downright scary when our imaginary friends stop talking to us.
- 3. We get to God at work.** God is working all around us—all the time. We just don't always notice. As writers, we not only notice, we bring it to the attention of others and watch them marvel at the awesome God we serve.
- 4. We get to play the game of what if.** Two of the MOST fun words in a writer's vocabulary are what if. More things are born from these than anything else.
- 5. When COVID hit, we were already set up to work at home.** We didn't have to adjust our work environment at all. Some of us had to accommodate a few more folks in our space, but we already had a place claimed.
- 6. We can buy books and write it off.** Books are some of our favorite things in the whole world. Now we need to buy them to further our careers.



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**7. We can brainstorm with friends.** This is like a more focused version of what if. AND it involves hanging out with like-minded writing friends.

**8. We can take revenge on those who irritate us.** Of course we don't make them recognizable, but it makes us feel better when we can expose their actions in our books. After all, there's a reason for that old saying, the pen is mightier than the sword.

**9. We get to work in our pajamas.** Or at least in comfy clothes. There's something to be said for working at home where we don't have to worry about how we look.

**10. We get to be the boss.** Some of us are a total control freaks, so being in charge fits our personalities perfectly. We're in charge of our schedules (to a certain degree) and we get to tell our characters what to do.

**11. We see how everything is a potential article, devotion, book, or blog post.** Every situation carries the possibility of turning into the next submission.

**12. We get to be friends with other writers—and some of them are famous.** Some of us have had author heroes. Now, we're friends with other writers and get to hang out with the people we've always admired.

**13. We get to research anything we want.** We like to think of it as a healthy curiosity. We refuse to accept the label of just being nosey.

**14. We get to hang out in coffee shops and libraries.** We love the atmosphere of coffee shops and libraries. As a writer, we have a legitimate reason for hanging out there.



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**15. We look at life differently.** We are essentially observers. We see the moments of life, along with cause and effect in ways most people don't.

**16. We get to buy pens and paper.** Many of us are obsessed with pens and paper. Now since our vocation is earning a living as a writer, we must have them for business.

**17. We get to go to conferences.** Of course the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers conference is our favorite! But we love gathering with other writers and talking shop anywhere!

**18. We get paid to make things up.** No, not when we're writing articles and things like that. But for those of us who write fiction, we get to create everything from our imagination.

**19. We get fan mail.** It's not the fan mail exactly that's the best. For us, it's hearing from those we don't know who have been touched by our words. We love getting to see glimpses of God working through us.

**20. We're part of a unique community.** Meeting another writer—anywhere in the world—provides an instant understanding and connection.

**21. We get to play with words.** Writers love words—the meanings, the sounds, even the cadence when we put them together in just the right way.

**22. We get to watch an idea grow into a book.** There's nothing like being hit with an idea and over the course of time watching how it grows into a book.



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**23. We get to be weird.** Writers look at the world a little differently. We can embrace that because people expect it. No need to hide behind a mask of normalcy.

**24. We get to experience the click of the keys when the writing flows.** There's nothing like the music of typing when the words come tumbling out.

**25. We learn how to solve problems.** Writing lets us work on our problem solving skills and that helps in all parts of life.

**26. We get to experience the writing zone.** We've all been there. It's the hole-in-one of writing. The words are flowing and everything is wonderful.

**27. We can count all those hours of daydreaming as legitimate work time.** Even if we write nonfiction, we still have to come up with new and different ways to present the information. That means time spent thinking and dreaming is a workday requirement.

**28. We get to explore new places, cultures and experiences.** Many of us can't be world travelers, but writing gives us a ticket on a magic carpet to go wherever we wish.

**29. We are courageous enough to follow our dreams.** We talk a lot about the fears that come with being a writer. It's important to never forget the courage it takes to following our dreams. That's something we should celebrate!

**30. We get to encourage others along the writing road.** DiAnn and I love encouraging other writers and we wouldn't have that opportunity if we weren't writers ourselves!





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## MEET THE LADIES



*As co-directors of the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference and the Mountainside Publishing Retreats, DiAnn Mills & Edie Melson bring much more to the table than their combined half-century of writing expertise. They both exhibit a proven passion to equip writers today. Individually and together, they have encouraged thousands of writers as they stay true to the call of "changing the world one writer at a time."*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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