

ELEGANT LITERATURE

**WHY WRITE FAST:
BECOME A BETTER
STORYTELLER AND WRITE
YOUR NOVEL NOW**



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I'm Creag Munroe, a novel coach, short story contest judge, and founder of Elegant Literature.

I want to explain the philosophy behind my [New Novelist Accelerator](#). It's the reason the program exists, and why I advocate *so strongly* that writing multiple books fast is the best thing a new writer can do for their skill level and career.

First, you need to know this story:

The Danger of Aiming for Perfection

An excerpt from Atomic Habits by James Clear

On the first day of class, Jerry Uelsmann, a professor at the University of Florida, divided his film photography students into two groups.

Everyone on the left side of the classroom, he explained, would be in the “quantity” group. They would be graded solely on the amount of work they produced. On the final day of class, he would tally the number of photos submitted by each student. One hundred photos would rate an A, ninety photos a B, eighty photos a C, and so on.

Meanwhile, everyone on the right side of the room would be in the “quality” group. They would be graded only on the excellence of their work. They would only need to produce one photo during the semester, but to get an A, it had to be a nearly perfect image.

At the end of the term, he was surprised to find that all the best photos were produced by the quantity group. During the semester, these students were busy taking photos, experimenting with composition and lighting, testing out various methods in the darkroom, and learning from their mistakes. In the process of creating hundreds

of photos, they honed their skills. Meanwhile, the quality group sat around speculating about perfection. In the end, they had little to show for their efforts other than unverified theories and one mediocre photo.

Obviously, this can be applied to writing, too.

Time spent studying does not equal time spent writing. Reading how-to books has diminishing returns over the long term when compared to equivalent time hitting the keyboard.

If you show up everyday and write, you will get better.

But the real insight comes when we make a distinction between “writing” and “storytelling”. The former is spelling, grammar, and sentence flow. The latter is character, plot, and pacing.

The best way to improve writing is to write.

The best way to improve storytelling is to tell stories.

Here’s a question for you: as a new writer, which novel do you think will have the best storytelling...

Your first book, or your fifth?

For most of us it will be our fifth.

The more stories you tell, the better you will be at telling stories.

Clearly, the wisest path is to tell as many stories as you can,

as fast as you are able.

But how do you do that if it take years of struggle to finish even one draft?

Let's say you want to play Volleyball.

You need to be able to serve. At the pro level, this means 50km/hour and up.

To do so, would you spend years carefully planning how to take your first attempted serve, or would you grab a ball, find a brick wall, and start practicing?

Many authors get caught in the trap of treating their first book like something they can study hard enough for to ace on the first try. Now, everyone can pull examples of someone who hit a home run on their first go, but if you want to plan on that you probably have better odds if you just bought a lottery ticket.

To begin working on your pro volleyball serve, you should spend a little time preparing first. You want to know what size a regulation ball is, how to hold it, and whether you should focus on standing or jump serves. Learning the basic technique gives you something to work towards, and prevents you from developing bad habits you'll have to work hard to break later.

Writing is the same.

If your goal is to make a living from this as fast as possible, there are some things you'll want to know going in to save time.

Things like:

- Identifying your market.
- Choosing the platform you want to publish on.
- Deciding on a price point.
- Researching 3-5 similar books to create a blueprint for what sells.

But this course isn't focused on that—though I'm arranging guest speakers to teach you techniques to streamline that process in the future. Those techniques are focused on selling, but first you need something TO sell.

Our goal is to rapidly increase your storytelling abilities so you can quickly write quality novels.

The techniques we will focus on to get you to the writing equivalent of a pro volleyball serve are:

- Story structure
- Ideating and planning
- Efficient editing
- Accountability

These are the building blocks that, when learned, will free you to serve the ball again and again, confident you are making progress towards a professional level.

The repetition of serving the ball is the act of writing your draft.

Just like the photography students took 100 photos, each time you hit the ball, each time you put words onto the page, you are

progressing.

This part is extremely important. Once you have your technique in place, you get more benefit from practice than from analyzing yourself. For writing, this means not going back to re-read, edit, or do any kind of revisions until you finish the first draft.

In fact, it can even hinder you more than it helps. Writing is creative, while editing is analytical. Your brain is slow to switch between the two. Don't stress it out—just focus on practicing your storytelling.

Let me ask you this:

Are you here because you want to write one book, or because you want to have written multiple books over the course of your life?

Hands up if you want to write a bunch of novels.

Do you want to constantly be improving?

Yes? Of course you do, who would want to write the best book they ever will on their first go?

That means your first book is ideally going to be *the worst one you ever write*.

You don't want to peak right away. You want to get better, tell more engaging stories.

You want your 10th book to be better than the one you write now. Ideally, you will improve so much that the first book makes you cringe.

Think about that. Success means you won't be able to look back on your early work without thinking, "Oh God, that's so embarrassing!"

So why fuss over making it perfect if you *plan* on hating it in the future?

None of this means you shouldn't care about the quality of the book. Writing 10 piles of garbage won't help you either. It would be like serving the volleyball softly with the plan that eventually you'll just happen to get to 50km/h.

It doesn't work like that. You need to push yourself to improve.

So that's what this course is about.

It's streamlining the process to help you write the best book you can, as fast as you can, so you can get the reps in and achieve a pro level while minimizing wasted time and agony.

We are going to change our mindset from thinking of our goal as success.

You can't control how your novel will be received, or how many copies you sell.

You CAN control your input. You decide how much effort and

time to put in, which directly corresponds to how much you improve.

Your goal is to write a book. Period.

Once you achieve that, your new goal is to write another book.

And to make each one better than the last.

I'm just going to teach you how to do it as quickly and painlessly as possible.

Sound good?

Next, I want to meet you!

Especially if you are a motivated writer but struggle to finish your drafts.

I want to learn about your writing journey. If I think I can help you succeed and we are a good fit, I may offer you a seat in my next class. If not, then you receive a free 15 minute chat with an experienced writing coach, no harm done.

If that seems fair to you, book your free call with me right now [by clicking on this link](#).

I look forward to meeting you!

Warmly,
Creag Munroe
ElegantLiterature.com