



"Think of your story opening as a movie trailer."

Issue 5, Volume 1

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# Live Your Writing Dream

## Starting with Dialog

"What do you mean 'I'm dead'?" Margot stomped back and forth across the room. Of course, she was angry after what I'd just explained to her...

Starting with dialog can immediately hook the reader into the story, if the appropriate dialog is used, such as the example above. Notice that the explanation isn't included in the opening; that can come later as the reader gets that something powerful is happening and he or she has arrived in the middle of it.

How is the following different than the above example:

Margot stood in front of me and I said, "Margot, you were in a horrible accident. That was a week ago. We went to the funeral home, burial, and wake. I don't know why you don't remember the accident."

Why doesn't this work? Mainly, because it's explaining a situation instead of throwing the reading into the middle of what's going on with a line of dialog (opening example) that makes the reader want to KNOW what's happening.

Two more examples:

#1 - Betty tried her best for two weeks. She was on time every day, didn't surf

the net, and stayed later than anyone else. She was surprise when, on that Friday afternoon, Joe called her into his office and fired her.

#2 - "You're fired," Joe said, handing Betty an envelope. "Here's your final pay check."

The reader is there, with Betty, involved in the story in the second example, while the first one does some story setup and explanation.

Should a story start with the planning of a bombing or just when the bomb goes off? Which would more likely entice the reader to continue with the story?

Yes, many stories begin with characters or setting or description, and they work because the story problem is presented through one of these craft elements. The reader should get a feel for the conflict, or be presented with some tension or mystery when stories open with character, setting, or description. Multiple elements should be woven to great an interesting opening.

Think of your story opening as a movie trailer. What would most draw the reader into the world you are creating? You might not know what your opening will be until after you've drafted the story and work on the revision. That's perfectly fine! REALLY! A draft is just that - an expanded idea, working its way into BECOMING a story.

## WRITING CHALLENGE:

Come up with the best dialog opening you can imagine. Keep this to one sentence of dialog, followed by who is saying it and/or any appropriate character action. Email this to me: [PJuneDiehl@LiveYourWritingDream.com](mailto:PJuneDiehl@LiveYourWritingDream.com) I'll pick the best ones include those in the June newsletter.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My blog is updated every week. Check it out!  
Visit: [LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com](http://LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com)

## MAKE A SCENE!

June 7 - 21, 2010

## PLOTTING SUBPLOTS

July 5 - 11, 2010

## ACTIVE versus PASSIVE Writing

Starts August 3, 2010

For more information for the above workshops and to register, go to:

<http://www.savvyauthors.com/workshops.cfm>

Workshop for the Muse Online Writers Conference  
(a FREE event)

Title: Building a Submission Package for Success

WHEN: **October 11 - October 17**

<http://www.themuseonlinewritersconference.com/>

Registration is **NOW** open.

For a complete list of upcoming workshops and events, go to:

<http://LiveYourWritingDream.com/>

and click on Workshops for coaching and writing coming events.

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Please feel free to forward this newsletter (in its entirety) to others.

Best Wishes,  
June



# Live Your Writing Dream

"Keep your brain and heart wrapped around positive thoughts. You'll be surprised how far that will take you."

As soon as you realize any negative thought, say out loud: "STOP!" Back up and rephrase to a positive statement.

## Writing Goals: Step 5 - The Last Step

The last step in achieving your goals is not something you DO, but a way of being: **ATTITUDE!**

The DOING part is the first four steps. This last step—the BEING part—is what will keep you moving forward, what will keep you on track. This is not a physical step, but a SHIFT in your thinking. Some might need to shift more than others. To achieve anything in your life you must BELIEVE in yourself.

One way to help achieve this state of positive attitude and belief is to realize when you are not thinking positive about yourself, stop, and reverse that thought into something positive.

### FOR EXAMPLE:

You're working on a project, feeling frustrated at your progress, and the following thought seeps into your mind:

*I can't do this. I might as well give up.*

*I'm being challenged. I'll take a break, come back, and work on this with a fresh viewpoint! I CAN make my daily goal of <fill in the blank>.*

Did you notice something here? A few words can defeat us. Keep your brain and heart wrapped around positive thoughts! You'll be surprised how far that will take you.

After you commit to the first four steps and working on those, step five is what will push you over the hill on the path you're traveling. It's much easier to accomplish what we want when we feel good about ourselves: IT'S ALL IN THE ATTITUDE!

REMEMBER: Words give us personal power and control. It's the way to happiness and joy and achievement.

**CHALLENGE:** Make a plan to taking your power and doing something positive with it. Do it today. Do it now.

"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another."

- Walter Elliott

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