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**Top 10 Tips to Complete a Creative Writing Project Without Losing Your Creativity**

**By Ginger Blanchette**

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Have you ever started a creative writing project with great excitement, only to have your interest dwindle as the process, itself, interfere with your creativity? How do you keep the momentum going and continue to enjoy the creative process? Follow these tips for high creativity, fun and success!

1. Create a writing environment that inspires you.

Create a place in your home or outdoors that calls you to write. Consider light, color, sound, scent, taste, writing materials.

2. Follow *The Artist's Way*, by Julia Cameron.

I highly recommend this book. It keeps you focused, observant, playful, and creative – and it keeps you believing in yourself as a writer!

3. Choose your writing project in a joyful way.

When choosing a writing project, come from your heart – not your head. Be playful. Be creative about how you choose your project.

4. Make a creative representation of the project's ideal end.

Draw, paint – use a creative medium other than writing to represent the completed project. Consider, especially, how you will feel when it's done. Put your model in a prominent place. Use this to trigger the desired feeling, before the completion – every day!

5. Make a timeline with celebration points.

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Make it visually appealing. Have a step-by-step outline and celebrate creatively as you complete each step.

### 6. Create an R&D Team for your project.

Contact a number of your friends, colleagues, and readers. Invite them to join your R&D Team. Send them snippets of what you write, questions you have about the process, or anything else you want input on – on a regular basis. Their input will keep you going.

### 7. Keep Creating & Editing times separate.

If you edit while you write, the process can become boring. Clearly block a specific amount of time for editing into your schedule. Don't let it interfere with your creative writing time!

### 8. If blocked, shake things up!

Do something fun, unusual, active! Get your mind somewhere else and move your body. Your creative side will work in your subconscious while you're at play. Read the tips in *The Artist's Way*. There are also many resources on the internet for handling writers' block. Check some of these links:

### 9. Have a Fan Club.

Critics and editors are fine, but have a few friends or family members who you can ask to cheer you on or cheer you up, no matter what you write. Hire a Creativity Coach to keep you focused and to be an unbiased supporter of your creative success!

### 10. Celebrate in a big way!

When you reach the big finish, give it a big finish! Do something you've always wanted to do, but have never done before. Make the finish so memorable that you'll be eager to begin your next creative writing project!

Ginger Blanchette is a Life and Business Coach who supports her clients to share their creativity. She works with professionals and business people who are ready to complete big projects involving writing and/or public speaking and to be recognized for what they do! Contact her at

or by email to

for a free sample coaching session.

## **Tap the Creative Inside You**

**By Shery Ma Belle Arrieta–Russ**

## Top 10 Tips to Complete a Creative Writing Project Without Losing Your Creativity

Imagination is the source of creativity. It's a place where unlimited possibilities reside. It's where pure energy lives.

People are innately imaginative and creative. However, most people are simply not conscious of their imaginative and creative selves.

Creativity is the cognitive process of developing a novel idea or concept.

Teresa M. Amabile, a creativity expert, argues that creativity is not a quality of a person. Rather, it is a quality of ideas, behaviors or products.

According to her, creativity has 3 basic ingredients:

1. Domain–Relevant Skills – These are skills associated with expertise in a relevant field (e.g., artistic ability, technical ability, talent, etc.).

2. Creativity–Relevant Skills – These skills include a cognitive style or method of thinking oriented towards exploring new directions, approaches that can be used to generate new ideas, and a work style conducive to developing creative ideas.

3. Task Motivation – Recent evidence suggests that a genuine interest in a task for its own sake, rather than for achieving external rewards such as money, enhances creativity.

So how can you develop your creativity? Here are 2 ways:

1. Provocative Operation, coined by Edward de Bono – This involves disrupting your thought patterns. It works with the premise that the more you are used to something, the less stimulating it is for your thinking.

Application: Insert "interruptions" into your day. This can be writing in a different room or area, reading magazines you wouldn't normally read, tuning in to a different radio or television station, cooking and eating something different.

2. Forced Analogy – This method forces you to compare a concept, idea or problem with something else that it has little or nothing in common with. The results are new insights.

Application: Compare an emotion (e.g., elation, excitement, anxiety) with a tangible object (e.g., pen, chair, door). How is anxiety like a door?

When you need to tap the creative inside you, use these 2 techniques. Tap into your imagination and you enable yourself to create new things, come up with ideas you have never thought of before. Tap

into your imagination and you awaken your creativity.

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Shery is the creator of WriteSparks! – a software that generates over 10 \*million\* Story Sparkers for Writers. Download WriteSparks! Lite for free –

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