

# POST-CHALLENGE DEBRIEF

## EXERCISE 1: WHAT DID I LEARNED ABOUT MY WRITING PRACTICE?

Ideas: was it best to have a list of ideas before I sat down to write or to come up with something on the spot? Or somewhere in between?

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My best time of day to write:

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Which worked best: writing everyday v.s taking days off:

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Choose one:

- When I wrote every day my energy sagged after \_\_\_\_days OR
- Writing every day made me more energized and more likely to write.



I wrote best in this kind of environment [ ] Busy coffee shop [ ] fortress of solitude [ ] other

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Weekends vs weekdays; how did they differ?

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How did special events impact my writing (visitors, birthdays, preplanned social outings and obligations). Did they derail my writing or provide a welcome reset/recharge?

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## **EXERCISE 2: WHAT DID I LEARNED ABOUT MY WRITING?**

These types of stories came most easily:

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What length of story came most naturally?

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What style/mood/genre did I write in more than most?

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What style/mood/genre did I most enjoy writing?

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Am I comfortable writing short stories or am I really an epic novelist?

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Did I enjoy character-based, action-driven, mystery-driven stories or stories with a strong sense of place, the most? Or something else?

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What elements are strongest in my writing: character, description, action, dialogue, intrigue?  
What elements do my stories need more of?

A grid of dotted lines for writing notes.

**EXERCISE 3: SORTING OUT MY STORIES**

Set aside time to sort stories into three 'buckets'. (Expect fewer than 30% to fall in Category 1!)

[ ] Revise, rework and share these stories:

A grid of dotted lines for writing notes.

[ ] Useful background stories for a longer work (e.g. a novel or memoir)

A grid of dotted lines for writing notes.



[ ] Interesting exercises, but no need to work on them again

A large grid of small dots for writing notes.

**EXERCISE 4: WHAT COMES NEXT?**

My next major goal for my writing is:

A large grid of small dots for writing notes.



**Based on what I learned during the challenge, I plan to keep going by:**

- Posting in the SWAGr group at StoryADay
- Joining a writer's group
- Committing to \_\_\_\_ words/hours next week
- Putting writing dates on my calendar
- Going to \_\_\_\_\_ to write
- Revising \_\_\_\_\_ stories
- Researching publication markets for \_\_\_\_\_ hours next month
- Submitting \_\_\_\_\_ stories to publications/competitions
- Sending \_\_\_\_\_ stories to \_\_\_\_\_ (friend/family/mailling list)
- Other

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Sharing some of these goals on the [SWAGr post at StoryADay.org](#) within the next week

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

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