

## YOUR WRITING TIME - Lesson 4

by  
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Hi All

This is it, the last week of this course.

Here's what we have worked on so far:

1. Determined our writing time
2. Determined the time when we do our best writing
3. Get a handle on distractions etc so that when it's writing time, that's what we do  
- Write!!

This week is a little different. As you can see from my subject title, this lesson is on mindset. It's on our attitude as writers. We all love to write. Some of us are published some of us are not. And that is what brings me to this week's lesson. Mostly, it's about getting respect as a writer, whether you are being paid or not.

This is often a fickle biz. There are hot spells and dry spells even for the published writers. Often published writers have periods they feel unpublished because nothing they are doing is selling, there are no (paying) deadlines, sometimes even no good ideas happening.

As writers, we are professional whether we are paid or not. We respect each other. But do we respect ourselves? And this means when there is no current paying WIP in progress. And do our friends and families respect us?

Here's where this lesson is heading. We will have more success with our writing time if others respect us as professional writers while we are writing. But first, we have to respect ourselves as we write.

Around my house, everyone knows well "Be quiet! Mommy's on a deadline!" Or my personal favorite. "Leave your mother alone. What do you want?" (spoken by a tall handsome person with a rich baritone voice)(drool drool)

It's a given that when working on a paying deadline, that the people with whom we live will respect our writing time. But what about when it's not a paying deadline?

I don't know how many of you have ever been out of work, laid off not by your own choice. I recently have, and it was a devastating feeling having my job yanked out from under me and sent to another city to be done remotely by someone else (for less money). I am a rater/biller in my "day job". But when my job was yanked out from under me and I was no longer working, did I still consider myself a rater/biller, even though I was not

currently being paid to be one? You bet I did! I have worked hard and for many years to learn my skills and be proficient at this!

We are all still learning to write gooder, but no matter where we are, we have a bunch of learning, and skills, behind us. When I am not writing something that pays, that doesn't make me any less a writer, just as when I was unemployed from my job as a rater/biller, I was not any less a rater/biller. I just wasn't currently being paid for it.

Now, when we are writing, whether or not we are being paid for the work at our fingertips, we are not any less a professional writer.

Portray this attitude! You are a professional! And as a professional, you deserve the respect of your peers who are not writers, just as you respect what they do, whether or not they are currently employed in that field.

When I was cruising the newspaper ads and the internet looking for a job, making out resumes and cover letters or cover emails, no one disturbed me. When we are writing, hopefully some day to submit what we are working on, is this any less? No! It deserves respect. More respect, actually, because it's a lot of work, compared to a resume and cover letter that takes 20 minutes.

So, when you need that writing time, and you are writing, portray yourself as the professional you are. Yes, you are there writing for a long time, and you have to make allowances for being disturbed, just as anyone is who is self-employed and working from home. That is what we are as writers - self employed and working from home. (I can tell you horror stories of what the Canadian Unemployment Insurance people think of being self employed as a writer)

Assignment:

Talk to everyone in your house. Ask them what they think of your writing. Kids, too, because kids are more of a distraction by far than the adults. See what they really think. If they don't see you as writing as a professional, it's time to show them that you really are writing as a professional, whether or not you are employed for money in your field, or not.

This is a very personal assignment. I invite anyone who wants to share to do so, but I will not ask you to share anything confidential if you don't want to. This is where our writing gets very close to home, because it is our home. I don't know anyone personally who goes to an office away from home to do their writing. I know I sure don't. The only writing I do away from home is when I take my laptop or word processor to work and try and write on my lunchbreak. I don't think that counts as writing at an office. haha.

Anyway, the point here is, you are a professional, and you will have more success at writing quality content when you feel like a professional, and you will feel more like a professional when you are treated as one by those around you. So educate them. See what they think, and then tell them exactly what it's like.

You get out of your writing what you put in. So put in a professional attitude, and your

words will shine!

Happy writing to all!