

## Writing Space

By Lorraine Grout

The perfect writing space is a matter of preference. Some authors can write anywhere – on planes, in hotel rooms, at the beach. Others need a windowless room in a remote location. What is important is to have somewhere to write. Somewhere where you won't be distracted by chores; where family members understand that when you are in your space, you are working and not available to play games, help with homework or walk the dog. It may be necessary to content yourself with - as Stephen King initially did - a space between the washer and the dryer in the laundry.

A writing space is as much psychological as physical. Fantasy writer Holly Lisle says, "We claim this space in the name of writing, and guard it jealously, because space set aside acts to validate our dreams, and reminds us of the promise we have made to ourselves---the promise to write."

More than one author has written a novel sitting at the kitchen table with family life going on around them. The act of sitting down with laptop or pen and paper and closing off mentally to distractions makes that physical area writing *space*. If you are someone who is easily distracted, a private writing space is a must. For most aspiring authors, a dedicated office is not usually an option. It may be necessary to lock yourself away in the garage or even the bathroom! If the only available place is a high-traffic area, it can be worthwhile investing in a pair of headphones – if music is a muse – or industrial strength earphones.

It is not impossible to write in sub-zero temperatures perched on a cardboard box ten meters from the railroad; it is easier to write well if seated contentedly in agreeable surroundings. If serious about writing, it may be worthwhile investing in comfortable furniture and other tools of the trade. Some writers like a window with a view, others find them a distraction. If you find the view through the window distracting, try positioning your desk so that your back is to the window. It may be necessary to adjust the screen of your PC to reduce glare.

Surround yourself with the things that inspire you to write – bookshelves, writing awards, a photograph of your favorite author. Some writers employ manifestation and inspire themselves with a mock-up of the front cover of their planned novel.

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Most importantly, don't put off writing because you can't find somewhere to do it. Just write. Keep pen and paper or recording instrument with you at all times; carry your writing space with you. Experiment with position, music and climate. You'll find that some spaces are more conducive than others. When you do eventually find a space, make it your own.



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