

REFLECTING ON YOUR STORY

A Year in Review for Writers



What writing projects did you complete this year? Include personal projects, client work, blog posts, books, articles, and any other writing that required your time and attention. Scribble a few descriptive words next to each project.

What writing projects are you carrying into the new year? What is still in progress? Scribble a few descriptive words next to each project.

Circle words that appear more than once. What do these projects have in common? Do these qualities reflect who you are as a writer and as a person? Does your writing life feel aligned with your personal life?

Which qualities of your writing feel the most energizing? (These may be your strengths as a writer.)

What were your favorite writing moments this year? (The answer may hold a clue about why you are a writer.)

What is your current relationship to writing? What kind of relationship would you like to have?

What kind of writing do you want to do less of? What do you want to leave behind this year?

What kind of writing do you want to do more of?

What habits and practices supported your writing this year?

How can you make the writing process easier in the coming year? How can you soften your approach to writing? How can you energize your writing?

What inspires your writing? Books, magazines, music, museums? How can you integrate these into your weekly routine to encourage creativity?

How can you nurture the ideas you're most excited about? Is it time to share them with your biggest fans? Or is it time to protect them and work on them privately? How can you care for and cultivate the ideas you're most passionate about?

What's the one change you could make that would have the biggest impact on your writing life?

How can you share your writing more widely in the coming year?

In what ways are you a writer even when you're not writing?

How can you make writing an essential part of your routine?

What books would you like to be known for in the next five years? How can you best focus your attention on these projects?

What skills do you need to develop to become the writer you want to be?

Read back through your answers. What does your wisest self want you to know?

What's the first step you will take in your writing journey next year?

PUT YOUR EAR DOWN
CLOSE TO YOUR SOUL
AND LISTEN HARD.

—Anne Sexton