

LESSON 1: THE AUTHOR VEIL (AND HOW TO LIFT IT)



A veil is something that can either conceal or reveal. As writers, our words can either be something we hide behind, or something that shows our true self to our audience. The author veil is just a fancy way of talking about the distance between the author and the written word.

Depending on the type of writing, there are appropriate times for the authors to put themselves in the forefront of their writing:

JOURNALISM

The author stays at a distance. The topic, facts, and other people involved are at the forefront. The author's job is to convey the events truthfully and accurately, and very seldom adds in their own opinions or commentary.

PERSONAL ESSAY

The author's presence is at the forefront of the piece. Their personal experiences, opinion, and biases shape the narrative.

What we write on the page doesn't always communicate who we are in real life. So, how much of yourself as an author do you put into your work?

WAYS TO REVEAL MORE OF WHO YOU ARE IN YOUR WRITING OR "LIFT THE VEIL":

Voice

Let your personality come through in your writing. Think about how you talk in real life and try to bring some of that conversational feel to your piece. Tell us a story in a way only you can tell it.

Real Life Anecdotes

Give examples from your real life as a way to illustrate a point or introduce a topic.

Follow Your Interest

What are your hobbies? What do you already know about, or what are you interested in learning? Do you have hobbies? Use analogies or metaphors that relate to your interests. Give the audience a peek into your life outside of being a writer.

Know What You Want to Keep Private

Make a list of your deal breakers. This could include: private conversations, family, or any area of your life that is important for you to keep private either personally or ethically.



CHALLENGE

Make a list of the specific ways you can bring more of yourself to your writing. Make another list of your deal breakers. Keep it in a place that you can refer to when you are working on a piece of writing.

Email your challenge to laurelnakai@gmail.com by April 24