

What Is Voice in Writing?

When we talk about voice in writing we mean personality-on-paper. When writing lacks voice it sounds cold, stiff, and lifeless. When writing contains voice we sit up straight because it feels like an actual person is talking to us.

Writing with voice sounds personal and contains the quirks and rhythms of real human speech: “Library books are precious resources. Honestly, as a librarian I consider books my close personal friends – I couldn’t imagine living without them!”

Writing with voice may include:

- ungrammatical sentences (sentence fragments, for example)
- conversational language, idioms, and expressions
- punctuation used in surprising ways

Voice is not just the “frosting on the cake.” Rather it is the crucial human element that fuses us to whoever is writing, and what they are saying. Voice makes us want to keep reading.