

WRITE MIGHTY TIGHT-TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE AND SHED THOSE EXTRA WORDS

1. Essential skill for writing articles, devotionals, and short stories.
2. Target those word count maximums.
3. Keep your reader turning the pages.

WORD LOVE, AN EXAMPLE FOR EDITING (WORD COUNT 53)

**We who love words probably love the world of words. Writing words is a way for some of us to make sense of our world. Do we like to enhance our stories for others with what we've learned or share the joy of our discoveries and how to help them in their struggles? (underlined areas are for editing instruction below, see 4-8).*

EDIT, TIGHTEN AND SLASH RELENTLESSLY. THE CHALLENGE—SLASH THE WORD COUNT BY HALF

4. Note the first six underlined words above. Remove repetition! Which “word” and “world” to **slash**? Identify nonessential words, and remove, or choose a synonym.

RETAIN OUR MESSAGE AND CLARITY-REDUCE THE SENTENCE’S WORD COUNT BELOW (28 WORDS)

5. Do we enjoy enhancing our stories to help others, when we share our discoveries? (15 words). *Tightened to half the word count!
6. When we share our stories of discovery, do we enhance them? (12 words).
7. Do we enhance our stories, when we share them? (9 words).
8. Are others helped by our enhanced stories? (7 words). Did this sentence lose clarity, or does it need 9 words?

ALLOW TIME FOR EDITS AND CRITIQUES. IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL DRAFTS TO GET IT RIGHT

9. Editing is a disciplined, repetitive, and **unlimited** task. ALL writers are required to edit. Make it count!

FIND AND USE SYNONYMS FOR A BETTER CHOICE IN WORD

10. Highlight your word, hold down Control, tap for dialogue box, “Synonyms” is listed. Tap for substitutes.
11. For definitions, Smart Lookup is listed above Synonyms.

MORE WORDS EQUALS CLARITY—NOT EXACTLY. ASK THESE QUESTIONS WHILE WRITING —

12. What are the publisher’s story submission guidelines for the maximum word count? Slash when needed.
13. If I slash redundant or nonessential sentences, will my readers still comprehend my message? Yes, nonessential words lengthen articles, and sentences, plus reading time.

WHEN OTHERS SLASH OUR WORDS

14. What if someone critiques my story and wants me to cut out my favorite words? Consider their comments, and reasons. Critiques represent a percentage of our reading audience.
15. Clear up the confusion. If we confuse a reader, they won’t enjoy our story.
16. What do I do if an editor wants to change or slash portions of my story? Editors hold the power to publish. They are professionals, trained and experienced in the writing world.
17. Listen and apply most suggestions, and our skills improve—we might even discover a new direction for our story.
18. Keep our unique **voice**—that’s a challenge with edits. Don’t copy someone else. **Be You.**

REMEMBER OUR READERS

19. Keep readers in mind at all times. What message do we want to share with them, or seriously consider?
20. Write mighty tight to keep our messages comprehensible and targeted.
21. Clear communication equals enjoyment and impact for our readers.

This document’s body word count is 507. **CHALLENGE—Slash 7 words to hit a 500-word count maximum.*