Writing Exercises That
Build Up Creative Juices
and
Break Through Writing Blocks

- **Writer's Block: Fact *and* Fiction**

- Fact, for sure! Come check out my spice rack and my junk drawer. They're surgically clean and organized.
- Fiction, for sure! All one needs to do is *exorcise* the fear of it through *exercises* that absolve you from writing anything that would actually make it into the script.

- **What-if Goes A Long Way**

- Place characters in outrageously different situations to the story at hand.
- Explore scenes or scene ideas as dialogue-only, then as action only.
- Have your characters do the exact opposite of what you're thinking they should do, particularly at the point in your story where you feel you've run up against a wall.

- Write journal entries for each of your important characters. Try to center them around key events you're planning for your script. This way you will see a situation from all points of view.

- **A Scriptful of Placeholders**

- When you know what you want your character to mean, but you don't know how it should be conveyed.
- When you don't know what you want your character to do, but you know what their motivations are and where you'd like the action to go in terms of arc.

- **The Process of Elimination**

- Novice writers especially tend to hate this. Something about the sparseness of the craft coupled with the accessibility of material on every device we own makes it seem rather easy. A lot of novice writers don't want to write several versions of a scene -- let alone several versions of a story-- but freeing yourself to do so allows you try out all sorts of versions. THE PROCESS OF WRITING IS IN FACT A PROCESS OF DISCOVERY. You may not have yet chanced upon the final version, but you can at least say what that version *won't* be. There's real value in that.

WRITING EXERCISES THAT BREAK THE WALL

Write a scene that starts one way and ends in another. Go from two extremes.

Write a scene without dialogue that gives a character an important action. Best for scenes that are chatty.

Write a scene with only dialogue. Best for scenes that are action/description heavy.

Put your hero in an unexpected encounter with the antagonist.

Write a scene in which what is being said has *nothing* to do with what is going on.

Write a scene in which your hero interact with their parents. Then, if it's not the same people, have the hero address the people who raised them.

Write a scene with your hero in a confessional situation.

Write a scene that illustrates a message or theme of your story.

Take your 3-5 main characters and imagine them on safari. It can be any era you wish. Someone notices that a lion is stalking the camp. You can substitute the scenario as you like, putting the characters in situations outside of your storyline.

Share Your Tips For Pushing Through Writer’s Block: