

# What Writers Need to Succeed with Patricia Charpentier Saturday, January 15, 2022

*The only way to do this wrong is to not do it at all*

## 1. What is success?

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**Exercise:** How do you define writing success? What would make you feel successful, like a million dollars as a writer?

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## 2. The first thing a writer needs—have a goal.

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**Michael Hyatt**, business coach, speaker says, “A goal is not about what you accomplish. It’s about what you become.”

**Exercise:** What is your long-term goal? What are you moving toward? What do you hope to accomplish? What does achieving your goal look like, visualize the moment?

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3. **The second thing a writer needs—let go of doing it *right*.**

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**Anne Lamott**, American author – Give yourself permission “to write shitty first drafts...Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts.”

**Michael Hyatt** – “Perfectionism is the mother of procrastination.”

**Ivan Turgenev**, Russian novelist, short story writer, poet, playwright in the 1800s – “If we wait for the moment when everything is ready, we shall never begin.”

**Dorothea Brande**, American writer/editor – *Becoming a Writer*, published in 1934, still in print – “Act as if it were impossible to fail.”

**Stephen King**, American author – “Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration. The rest of us just get up and go to work.”

**Exercise:** What specifically do you believe you need to do *right*? What could you do to let go of this burden?

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4. **The third thing a writer needs—the willingness to say *no* to a thousand things.**

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**Steve Jobs**, American business magnate – “The difference between successful people and really successful people is that really successful people say ‘no’ to almost everything.”

**Ken Groen**, “Urgent things shout; important things whisper. Listen to the whispers.”

**Warren Buffet**, American business magnate, “Successful people say no to almost everything.”

**Exercise:** To protect your writing time, make a list of the things to which you need to say *no*. How will you accomplish this? What will you do to guard the time you need?

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5. **The fourth thing a writer needs—a strong emotional connection to your *why*.**

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**Gail Hyatt**, Michael Hyatt’s wife, says,  
“People lose their way when they lose their *why*.”

**Exercise:** *Why* do you want to write your stories? What can you do to stay connected to your *why*?

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6. **The fifth thing a writer needs—a community of like-minded people.**

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**Idowu Koyenikan**, consultant and author – “There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals.”

**Chris Matakas**, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu blackbelt and life coach,  
“It is in community where we find our very selves.”

**Exercise:** Where will I find my writing community?

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7. **Additional notes**

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