

THE BOOT CAMP FOR HYBRID WRITERS

Pitfalls

Class of Fall 2020

(we'll be working on these things this week and in workshop next week)

THE FOUR overarching AREAS OF CONCERN as you revise for your portfolio:

- Lack of fifth exits
- A need for strong action verbs
- A need for clear images
- An urgent need to trust your reader/cut explanation (show it!)

DO NOT SETTLE FOR First and Second Exit Images/Actions/Descriptions

"My chest is being crushed."

"The room is a dark abyss."

"I heard heavy breathing."

"I sighed. Her eyebrow raised."

"I was able to inhale finally."

"My eyes fluttered open."

"It doesn't even matter."

"I hope he is okay."

"I startle and long arms flail overhead in reaction, as it eerily moans."

“So uncomfortable tears would prick at my eyes, and I would nearly cry from frustration and pain.”

AVOID AT ALL COSTS To Be Verbs/To Have Verbs

“It was hard to decide....”

“There have been many times...”

“It’s so strange when you....”

“It’s just one of those things.”

“It was dark outside...”

“I was able to see...”

“She was quiet, shy, and socially awkward.”

CHANGE Abstract/Vague/Not Grounded to GROUNDED IN SPACE AND TIME

“Days passed and we talked every night.”

“The texture of it was soothing.”

“Hallucinations must be taking over my mind.”

“The meeting went well.”

TRUST YOUR READER: Cut all Commenting/Explanation (and stay with images!!!!)

“Maybe she’ll realize it too and I’ll be able to get on with my life.”

“His voice lacked emotion.”

“She angrily dragged the dog away.”

“What a miserable existence....”