

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

5 More Tips for Authors

“Write like playing a Video Game”

If you have played many video games over the years, you know some basic things about learning a new game. First, you are not going to win the first time you play. If you did, the game would not be much of a challenge. So, you will have to play the game over and over, and your character may die many times. You may need to gain experience and level up. You may need to learn how to use combo moves, and you may be tempted to grab some cheat codes to make it easier to beat that final boss. If any of this sounds familiar, then you are also familiar with some of the basic steps in writing. Here goes:



- 1. Die many times:** In order to learn how to beat the boss and win the game you may end up dying many, many times. You try something, and it doesn't work, and you figure that out and you keep playing. In writing, you will write a lot of stuff – a lot of bad stuff. That's OK. **Just keep writing, and with practice you'll find you write better things.**
- 2. Level up:** The more you play, the stronger your character becomes. You gain experience points which makes it easier to live longer and score higher. So too, with writing, the progress may be slow, but **you will begin to see that your writing is getting stronger the more you do it and review it.**
- 3. Practice Combos:** Every character has a special move or two that you can practice and use, not all the time, but sometimes, when you really need it. **When writing it is good to have a couple of signature combo moves you can use to show your style** (for more see: Techniques / Tips). And how do you develop these? That's where Cheat Codes come in very handy!
- 4. Use Cheat Codes:** Gamers know they can find Cheat Codes online or in the Player's Guide to their favorite game. Writers find these hints in the texts they read. One of the great benefits to reading a lot of other people's work is to find the neat ways they have of expressing themselves. **Look for cool sentences as you read and then learn to imitate them.**
- 5. Team up:** It's usually easier to beat the Boss and win the game when you team up with another player. In writing "Teaming up" happens when you share what you have written with others. **Listen to the feedback of other writers who can help you see things you missed.**