

# TIPS FOR CREATIVE WRITERS By Julia Walsh, FSPA

No matter if you are writing poetry, fiction or creative non-fiction remember...

## 1.) **What are you saying? Why are you saying it? How are you saying it?**

To remain focused while you write, stay centered on your message and why others need to hear the message. How are you conveying your message to your audience? What is your tone? Is your chosen structure and format helping or hurting others understand what you're saying? Are you conveying the message in a way that will be impactful and speak to hearts?

## 2.) **Who are you writing to?** Always keep in mind your intended and expected audience. Is it people who are already familiar with the topic? Is it your best friend who already knows what you think and believe? Who you are writing to ought to change your tone and content.

## 3.) **Show, don't tell.** "Jimmy was serious" is telling us about a part in your story, but this gives the reader's mind information. Such a phrase doesn't engage the imagination or emotions of the reader, or connect to their heart. Instead, of telling us about Jimmy's seriousness, involve the senses and show us how he acts serious. How does his face express seriousness? What does his voice sound like?

## 4.) **Communicate beauty and Truth.** Creativity is sacred work, a path to communion with the Divine. As you write, aim to honor the goodness, beauty and Truth of the Great Creator by arranging words into phrases that are more beautiful than clunky, more artful than awkward. Similarly, be sure your narrative communicates universal truths about the human experience or helps others better know God whose name is Truth. Consider carefully which specific detail, story, quote or metaphor will best convey the Truth you want to tell. As you communicate beauty and Truth, keep in mind that it is best to incorporate specific and personal details and avoid clichés.

### **"I died for beauty"**

by Emily Dickinson

I died for beauty but was scarce  
Adjusted in the tomb,  
When one who died for truth was lain  
In an adjoining room.

He questioned softly why I failed?  
"For beauty," I replied.  
"And I for truth, -- the two are one;  
We brethren are," he said.

And so, as kinsmen met at night,

We talked between the rooms,  
Until the moss had reached our lips,  
And covered up our names.