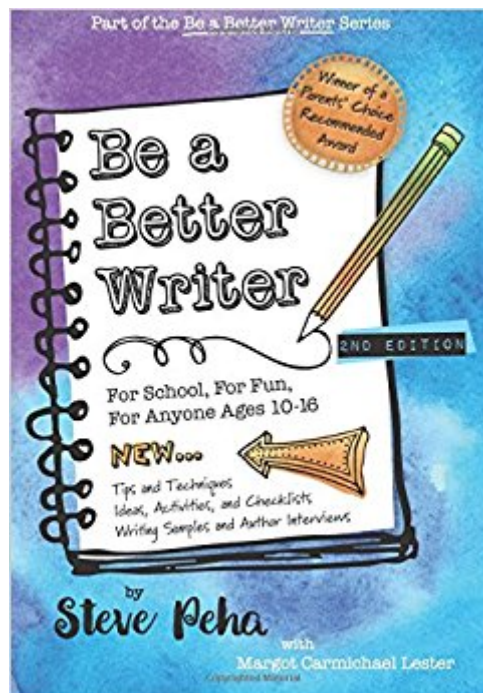




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# Be A Better Writer: For School, For Fun, For Anyone Ages 10-15 (The Be A Better Writer Series)



## Synopsis

One Book for All Kinds of Writers and All Kinds of Writing Whether you're writing essays for school or fiction for fun, this book helps you be a better writer. For School... Improve your grades with techniques like the What-Why-How and Content-Purpose-Audience strategies that clarify your thinking and strengthen logical arguments on tests, in essays, and on research reports. Use Sentence Patterns and the Plain English for Handy Analysis approach to improve your grammar without having to learn grammar rules. Get your work done faster, develop more confidence, bring home better report cards, and score higher on state tests. For Fun... Improve your creative writing by using The Five Facts of Fiction to dream up compelling characters and powerful plot lines that keep your readers reading from beginning to end. Produce rich description with the Tell-Show strategy. Render your ideas in well-chosen words and smooth-sounding sentences. Find your voice and translate your passion to the page so your readers feel it, too. For Anyone... You have a voice the world wants to hear. You have stories to tell, real and imagined, that readers can't wait to read. You have things to say that will change the way people think and feel, and that will shape the way they look at life after seeing it through your eyes. Don't keep your readers waiting; give them things to read. Don't wait for someone to discover you; discover yourself. Don't wait to be a better writer; be a better writer now!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**WINNER OF A PARENTS' CHOICE RECOMMENDED AWARD**"The breadth of the material is impressive. There are detailed chapters on paper and essay writing, which include practical tips on how to begin, organizing thoughts, and proceeding methodically to an end. Often, the greatest challenge of any writing task is the blank page. These authors dismiss the fear and replace it with friendly, easy-to-manage steps. There's plenty to offer all students at all levels--whether they want to pursue a career in writing, or write stronger papers, or just communicate better in general. The message throughout the book is that writing isn't so hard - anyone can do it, and anyone can get better."--Teresa DiFalco, award-winning writer and contributing editor for Parents' Choice

**WINNER OF THE 2016 BEST BOOK AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION**"With *Be a Better Writer* you can improve your creative writing by using *The Five Facts of Fiction* to dream up compelling characters and powerful plot lines that keep your readers reading from beginning to end. Produce rich description with the Tell-Show strategy.

Render your ideas in well-chosen words and smooth-sounding sentences. Find your voice and translate your passion to the page so your readers feel it, too."--USA Book News

**FROM A TEEN INK EDITOR'S CHOICE REVIEW**"*Be a Better Writer* is truly a great guide to writing, one that can be referenced and dog-eared during hundreds of writing sessions. It's broad: it instructs on informational writing and fiction, and the techniques provided are applicable in all genres and writing styles. Topics range from grammar rules to organization tactics to giving a work personality. Storytellers will especially love the last chapter, which discusses plot twists, character development, and other things crucial to fiction writing. *Be a Better Writer* is accessible to everyone: even teachers, parents, and older aspiring writers (like me!) can benefit from what's inside.

Reading this book provided me with new techniques, refined existing strategies, and led me to exciting topics. As I practice these skills, I'll do exactly what the cover promises and grow into the best writer I can be. *Be a Better Writer* will do the same for you."--Madison Shumway, student, Teen Ink

**FROM THE CREATOR OF THE SIX TRAIT WRITING MODEL**"The underlying purpose of a resource like this should be to answer questions real writers, especially students, ask most: What should I write about? Where can I get ideas? How do I begin? How do I end? What's a detail? How do I organize all this information I dug up in my research? Who the heck will read this and what do they care about? How do I make my writing sound more like me? This book answers every one of these questions, and countless others--and does so in a way that makes the information entertaining as well as easy to understand and recall. It's not a lecture; it's a conversation."--Vicki Spandel, author of more than 40 books on writing instruction and founder of Six Trait Gurus

Six Trait Gurus

Steve Peha has been writing about writing for over 20 years. He has worked with thousands of writers, young and not-so-young, through Teaching That Makes Sense, the company he founded in 1995 to provide high-quality educational training and innovative learning materials. In 2007, he won the Independent Publishers Award Gold Medal in Young Adult Nonfiction for the first edition of *Be a Better Writer*.

Steve Peha's book, *Be a Better Writer*, written with Margot Carmichael Lester, professional writer and his wife, is a MUST-HAVE for any young writer AND the teachers of young writers. This is NOT your ordinary reference book for writing. This book is engaging and attention-keeping. It is written in such a way that the reader could take their time reading the book chapter by chapter, OR the reader could use it as a reference book looking up the section/s they need for advice and support in the midst of writing. What I appreciate about this book is the effort that went into the organization making it appealing and easy to use. The nine encompassing chapters are broken into specific and informative sub-sections. Within those Peha-written sub-sections, Lester inserts helpful, real-world advice in "Miss Margot Says" segments. The book is also full of lists . . . lists of writing samples, lists of interviews, lists of activities, and lists of lists. I give this book an enthusiastic "Siskel and Ebert two thumbs-up" AND five stars. Check it out! Note: I first encountered Steve Peha through district professional development around 2002. As a new teacher, I found many useful ideas and strategies from his presentations. This past February, at a state writing conference, remembering his effectiveness from a decade before, I signed up for two of his sessions. Again, I found his teachings and philosophy about writing relevant and on-point. When Mr. Peha came to our district to support another teacher he'd been working with, he stopped by our school and spent time with my seventh hour class. He made some connections with several of my students who are serious writers. I can attest to the fact that all three of those students also believe this book is beneficial for young writers.

I am teaching middle school, writing summer camps this year, and I am feeling very lucky that I found this great writing text book with such a generous spirit. I am excited about sharing this book with my students because its "technique" approach will boost their confidence. I am also excited about how the voice and style of the book will make all of my young writers feel like they have the insider scoop on what works. The "Be a Writer Like..." feature is just one example of how Peha accomplishes this feat; working writers answer questions about writing as a profession. Peha's approach to teaching writing demystifies the process for enthusiasts as well as reluctant writers.

Enthusiastic writers will use these insider tips to take their projects to a new standard. Reluctant writers will know how to get in and get the heck out with good results. The techniques in this book are simple and practical. This is the hallmark of a pro. Peha does not need to fill pages with superfluous material. Every page has something to use in the classroom. Students will easily learn from the targeted instruction, the models students can readily follow, and the step-by-step approach to the entire writing process. BABW has given me plenty of tips to use in my own writing. I have a master's degree in creative writing, and no one ever taught me about pacing. I taught it to fifth graders last week, and we all learned something. There is a sense of community here. Peha encourages students to give him writing assignments! This community goes beyond the pages of the book in other ways, too. People who use this book in their classrooms are encouraged to interact and bring their students' writing to the international BABW audience. The book is full of tips for students who feel stuck at school, including tips for how to approach teachers for help. You and your young writers deserve this book.

I have two creative middle schoolers who are resistant writers. They don't think they're good at it, so writing is not an activity they gravitate to naturally. Even as an adult with a Journalism degree and plenty of professional writing experience, I often find myself intimidated by creative or personal writing. Getting started is hard! This book is full of tips and strategies for organizing thoughts and content to make writing our stories easier and more efficient, but my favorite aspect of *Be A Better Writer* is the motivational message embedded throughout. The authors are warm and encouraging, and they provide plenty of pep-talks to instill confidence that everyone has stories to tell and a unique perspective that the world needs to hear. This book is very approachable and the tone is youthful and fun, without talking down to its audience with immature language. The content is organized in digestible chunks and my 14-year-old has enjoyed picking it up and reading a few pages at a time. Definitely an asset to our family library!

Utterly fantastic! I'm using this not only to up my writing skills, but also to teach my kids as well.

*Be A Better Writer* is full of exactly what I need as a teacher, but you've written to students. Brilliant idea. The chapter on voice is astounding. I've tried for years to help writers use voice in their writing but it always sounded forced. These strategies on writing with voice not only make sense but are natural for writers. Thank you for pouring so much into this book and for challenging even the veteran English teachers like me.

I sure wish I'd had this kind of resource as a youngster. Seems like the sky is the limit as to what a teacher might accomplish with it. I especially like that it respects the unlimited potential of young scribes - very full in its coverage, yet each component is understandable, with engaging examples, asides and layout. Well done!

An amazing, easy-to-access resource for writers of ALL ages! Teachers, parents, students, professionals can benefit from purchasing and utilizing Be A Better Writer.

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