

Writing/Self-Improvement

Are YOU Destined to Become a Visionary Writer?

This book shines a light on the visionary writer's journey—from the initial idea to publication. It is filled with brilliant observations, eloquent introspections and profound insights to assist visionaries as they navigate the spiritual and emotional complexities of experiential writing. By sharing deeply personal stories alongside historical examples, Ja-lene Clark offers a fresh, enlightening perspective on experiential writing to inspire readers to boldly share their own wisdom. This is not a typical how-to-write book; it is remarkably expansive, inspiring and deeply healing.

PRAISE FOR THE JOURNEY OF THE VISIONARY WRITER

"...defines for the first time the special path of visionary writing. This is a **rare and potent guidebook** in its description of the essential and sequential steps needed to navigate the road to publication and bring forth one's unique message to the world."

JO ANN DECK, former Vice President of Ten Speed Press, Publisher of Celestial Arts and Crossing Press

"The things Ja-lene has taught me linger and continue to enrich my life. **I treasure her insights**, creativity, and the love she has poured into her book."

KIMBERLY MAROONEY, Author of *Angel Blessing Cards*

"This book is filled with raw personal information, humanness and rich insights that **show visionary writers the path to transform darkness to light.**"

ERIC EHRKE, LCSW, LMFT, Author of *The Promise of Wholeness*

"Follow **Ja-lene's shining example** and your work will be a captivating offering to humanity that may stand the test of time."

REV. DR. ALISON L. JAMES, Author of *Merlin and The New Camelot*

"After a 10-year break from writing, **discovering this book inspired me to finish my book.** Ja-lene's gentle guidance laid a solid foundation...it boosted my confidence overnight, and as a result, I successfully published my book!"

TISH LITCHFIELD, Author of *A Miracle Within You*

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Ja-lene
Elliott
Clark

The Journey of the Visionary Writer

The Journey of the Visionary Writer

THE FIVE PHASES OF
EXPERIENTIAL WRITING

JA-LENE ELLIOTT CLARK

Journey of the Visionary Writer

The Five Phases of Experiential Writing

JA-LENE ELLIOTT CLARK

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Dedication

To all who said I couldn't, thank you for inspiring me to become a better writer and human. To all who said I could, I am immensely grateful for your recognition of my potential.

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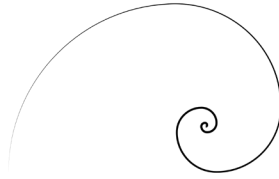
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***What an
astonishing thing
a book is.***

It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.

— CARL SAGAN

The Five Phases of Experiential Writing



An Introduction to the Visionary's Writing Journey

When I began working with writers individually, I believed that each writer's journey from idea to publication would be, without exception, unique. After 30-plus years of guiding visionary writers, I've realized that while every writer is unique, they must each journey through the five distinct phases of experiential writing discussed in this book.

Every writer is like a snowflake—visually unique but with a common core. This common core, or the “water “ in writers, is like a plot in which a cycle of growth to mastery occurs as insights are gained on a variety of subjects during the writing journey. Plots are not unique; the argument is that a certain number of possible plots exist, and we will explore that topic beginning with “*Do Our Lives Have Plots?*” on page 138. Whether

in a book or reviewed symbolically as part of the “book of our life,” a plot provides the structure binding the characters, circumstances, and events within a story together. One does not typically associate the term “plot” with non-fiction. However, I assert that the central thesis, a single theory or idea upon which the author builds their argument, could also be considered a plot. The phases of experiential writing we will explore are given to open your eyes and heart. Gaining awareness of the subtle nuances of your visionary plots will help you to review your life experiences with greater clarity and lead you to marvel at how the good, the bad, and the ugly have been like a divinely orchestrated plot designed to help you glean wisdom from even the most tragic experiences. All the angst and joy from your journey is leading you to become open to the desire to write. I promise to encourage you to share your wisdom from walking your unique experiential writing path.

After working with visionary authors, the cycle, pattern, and phases are crystal clear. All elements on Earth experience phases and visionaries are not exempt from this rule. Yes, we ARE special; however, like the eight billion other people on the planet, we experience everything within a framework. The foundation of our framework consists of our family, community, and the country in which we live. These elements shape our definition of what is possible and what is right or wrong in the world. When we travel beyond our framework, our perspective may shift as we encounter new cultural experiences. The shift does not happen in a traditional hierarchical structure in which we ascend a ladder as we gain wisdom. Instead, for the visionary, we start from a small point and expand in a symmetrical pattern as we explore new ideas and grow in wisdom.

Nature shows us models of symmetry in the things we find beautiful. Mathematically, the golden means or ratio is based on the Fibonacci sequence, and this pattern creates visually pleasing things in nature, architecture, and art. You can see an example of the pattern applied to nature in the photo on the next page. The golden mean is established in all of nature, from flowers to faces to seashells to man-made creations. And now we can use this pattern of perfection to make sense of the visionary writing cycle.

The golden mean pattern might not immediately make sense to you.

That is likely because you and I are accustomed to seeing hierarchal steps, but here, we see a target point that loops and expands, then loops and expands. So, before we begin looking deeply into the five phases of experiential writing, a brief synopsis is helpful.



Brief Synopsis of the Five Phases

Visionary writers have significant experiences, which I call a **traumatic impact**, leading onto a specific path to **experience**. As we gain experience, we begin to achieve **mastery** of our challenges.

Through mastery, we emerge compelled by a conscious drive to write and share the valuable insights we have gathered on a specific topic of mastery. Whether we call it a soul contract, fate, destiny, or a calling, a visionary's life path is designed like a golden mean in a perfect sequence of **experiential training** sessions, orchestrated with absolute perfection, to achieve mastery *before* writing about a specific topic.

In mastery, we identify our **visionary plots** and work through the most difficult aspects. Mastery of our visionary plots moves us into the teeter-totter phase of **joy and angst**. At that point, writing becomes a nagging obsession that takes a hold on our hearts. The force is so great that we cannot rest until we publish and can hold our finished book in our hands.

When we do finally look at our beautiful, printed book, we marvel that we have achieved this massive milestone. We wait. We promote. We teach. We market. We worry. We celebrate. Will it be a bestseller or a sleeper? Will people love it or say we are complete wackos? Who can predict how people respond? Why aren't people buying it, or why are so many people buying it?

Zillions of questions form until we escape the melancholy of questioning by realizing and embracing our motive as writers. Our **motive** guides us into self-realization, which opens the door to the ultimate destination of our writer's journey: a miraculous state of being named **tranquility**.

The path to tranquility is the perfect setup from the traumatic impact through all the other phases. Truthfully, even if we try to ignore the signs, the most reluctant writer cannot escape the call should that be their destiny—I promise it will nag and pull at our heart until we get that book out of us!

The experiential writing process is a "golden mean" for visionaries to inspire humanity. But let's prepare for our journey, or one could also call this an odyssey (another pronunciation could indicate that the writing process is odd-you-see). An odyssey is also a journey. It is a long series of wanderings or adventures filled with notable experiences sometimes extreme, ecstatic, brutal, or transcendental. I've written this book to help you navigate the treacherous seas of writing with grace. My motive for writing is to help visionary writers in achieving this grace.

Join me on this journey, and I will share all I have learned to help you find your way to tranquility.