Writing Journal: Probably the most useful tool you can have. Keep a small notebook or journal with you all the time. Write down things that catch your interest: a description of light flickering off the mirrors of the car, a snippet of overheard conversation, a sentence or a phrase that occurs to you as something brilliant. You may think you’ll remember these things when it comes time to sit and write, but it’s much more difficult than you think. The journal offers you a quick reference back to your ideas when you run into writer’s block.

Stephen King’s *On Writing*: Not required reading but it’s definitely something you’ll want to read if you love writing and want to learn to get better at it. Best known for his books like *The Shining*, *Carrie*, and *It*, Stephen King steps back and talks about how he learned to write well. It has a lot of interesting information about him as a person but most of it is him explaining why writing is good or bad, and how to make it better with common sense logic to everything he says.

[http://www.amazon.com/Writing-Stephen-King-ebook/dp/B000FC0SIM/ref=sr\_1\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1424511990&sr=8-1&keywords=On+writing](http://www.amazon.com/Writing-Stephen-King-ebook/dp/B000FC0SIM/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1424511990&sr=8-1&keywords=On+writing)

Scrivener: Scrivener is a writing program designed for the obsessive organizer. Some people are content to work linearly on a piece in a Word document, but this program will help you organize and edit your work more easily if you’re more inclined to skip around a story and write your chapters out of order. It includes a number of features to help you research, organize, and outline your work if you prefer to plan ahead and keep detailed notes.

<http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php>

Hemingwayapp.com: This is a good tool for the first pass at a document. It highlights sentences that are hard to read, phrases in passive voice, phrases that can be simpler and adverbs. All of these things are what you want to keep to a minimum in your piece if you’re writing for a recreational audience.

<http://www.hemingwayapp.com/>

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo): Less of a resource and more of a community of writers. You’ll find people with varying levels of experience writing. They hold a yearly event to write 50,000 words on a novel every November, which can be a great motivator to sit down and write. In addition, they have several smaller events that are more laid back throughout the course of the year. There are also endless forums and informative discussions about all topics in writing, from inspiration to grammar to historical fact checking.

<http://nanowrimo.org/how-it-works>

NaNoWriMo Word Tracker Spreadsheets: If joining the site for NaNoWriMo seems like too much and you just want to focus on your own writing alone, you can take advantage of the pre-made Excel spreadsheets that some hardcore writers made that look pretty and can be customized to your own personal writing goal. Save it to your Desktop and open it every day to watch your word count go up.

<http://svenjaliv.com/2013/nanowrimo-2013-word-tracking-spreadsheets/>

Writing Excuses: A great podcast with a long shelf life, it features a handful of full-time successful writers talking about writing. You can go back to pick and choose which topics you’re most interested in, everything from character development to setting, to bringing your worldbuilding to life. It’s updated constantly so you can either subscribe for free via iTunes or check out their blog.

<http://www.writingexcuses.com/>

Write or Die: If you’re one of those procrastinators who wants to write but just can’t seem to focus, here is one of two camps of motivations for sitting down and getting it done! You can play with the setting, sounds, mode, and general inspiration, depending on what you’re trying to get done. Want to write for ten minutes? Set the timer. Want to write 1,000 words? Set your goal and jump when the program prods you for not writing. See what works best for you. Just remember to save your work once you’re done.

<http://writeordie.com/>

The Writer: Tired of always having your Word document stuck at home or on a file where you can’t get to it when inspiration strikes? Want a place to store your writing so that it stays current without having to worry about your computer breaking? Check out this nifty little program. You write, it keeps you updated on your word count, you can set goals and times, and even add a sound effect for a typewriter if you’re into that sort of thing.

<https://writer.bighugelabs.com/>

WriteRoom: Into Mac apps? This nifty little program, which has a function also available on Scrivener, allows you to go into full screen mode and focus on nothing but writing. No distractions is the point of this program and sometimes that’s all you need to stay focused.

<http://www.hogbaysoftware.com/products/writeroom>

iA Writer: Another app that takes you into full screen and makes you focus on just the writing. It also allows you to focus, like the Hemingway site, on certain kinds of speech or tenses so that you can see the way that you normally write. It keeps track of how often you use certain words or phrases and highlights sections that you want to review again later.

<https://ia.net/writer/mac/>

50 Free Ways to Improve Writing: If you’re really hardcore and want to improve the writing part of writing, check out this list of resources to check grammar, improve your knowledge on the written word, and ways to move your writing to the next level.

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2009/06/28/50-free-resources-that-will-improve-your-writing-skills/>