

Author Elizabeth King's:

Style Sheet

A style sheet is a great way to keep your writing, editing, and word choice consistent and easy. It's a quick look back at the important parts of your word choices, and sentence structures. Everything from the feel you'd like the reader to have to words you'd like used in particular places. Every Style Sheet should be custom to you, and we encourage you to branch out and make your own in the future! See what works here, what doesn't, and keep going from there! ♥♥

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Novel Overview

Novel Overview is super important, allowing you to grab any important information you need at a glance.

Perspective

Perspective is an important narrative decision. Third and first are the most often used, with second and fourth being the least. Every POV has its strengths and weaknesses.

Perspective/POV
<input type="checkbox"/> First Person (I)
<input type="checkbox"/> Second Person (You)
<input type="checkbox"/> Third Person Limited (They)
<input type="checkbox"/> Third Person Omniscient (They)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Person (We)

Tell us why you chose this POV:

Language Choice & Inspiration

The language choice you make to write your novel in is probably one of the most important decisions. Even if it isn't followed directly, hammering down the feel you'd like can certainly only help.

Language Complexity — (Check any boxes that you like, or fill out your own!)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complex | <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple | <input type="checkbox"/> Romantic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Descriptive | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimalist | <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poetic | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-
-
-
-

You'll pick your core writing intent. Perhaps two or three writing styles you'd really like to stick close to.

As a side project, read some authors that write in either the genre you want to publish your book in or a style you are inspired by. See if you can identify what types of language they are using. Is it flowery? Is it technical and matter of fact? Do they use lots of descriptors or very few?

Use the next page to do some research or reflection! Who inspires you and what about their writing do you want to incorporate into your own?

Example: A

Author Name A	Their work in BOOK was a huge inspiration to me. Their flowery language, and snappy sentences kept me engaged. When someone or something new entered the scene, the care they used to describe it always painted such vivid images.
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Example: B

Author Name B	Author B has a way with emotion. I'm never left wondering what the character is thinking, with a rich inner monologue, and a good handle on show vs. tell. They don't describe the surrounding a lot, but the quick matter of fact lists suit the character's first person pov.
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Word Choices

Knowing what words you want to use and why are super important when you get into the editing phase. Know why you use “gray” instead of “grey” or “color” over “colour”. Are there any words or phrases you want associated with a certain place? A certain character? Is he grungy? Is she welcoming? Does the coffee shop always smell pungent, punchy, or warm and aromatic? Write down important words, phrases, or associations!

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Editing: Things to Look Out For

Make a note of common editing mistakes. Do you misplace commas a lot? Does a certain word give you trouble? Does typing fast leave a certain word misspelled? Perhaps you write sentences too long for the feel you want or too short. After your work is written and when you start to look it over, keep a list of the problems and nitpicks you run into.

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[illegible]

I hope you found this Style Sheet helpful! No style sheet is perfect, and every one should be custom but, starting from scratch can be hard and having a jumping off place is immensely helpful. My goal is to forever be improving, as a writer, a storyteller, and a teacher. Feedback is welcomed through the contact forum on my website, and improved version of this sheet may eventually come out. Members of my Newsletter get plenty of free goodies like this sheet, and your support is so absolutely appreciated.

Thank you so much,

Author Elizabeth King

Find me at: www.writerelizabethking.com

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