



Hello writer friends,

Happy new year! Let's talk about our 2025 writing goals.

Are you resolving to generate more ideas and writing generally? Are you interested in editing and revising the work you already have? Or do you aim to take your writing to the next level (once you figure out what that is for you)?

For me, I want to work on carrying through my story ideas to the highest level I possibly can. I don't want to be satisfied with my previous idea of what is 'good enough', but keep pushing myself through what I learned last year (through books like [How to Write Great Sentences](#) and [Intuitive Editing: A Creative and Practical Guide to Revising Your Writing](#), which I've already mentioned in previous newsletters).

Another goal of mine is to target specific magazines and journals in a more strategic way. My default mode is to write what I believe constitutes a meaningful travel story, and then try to match those up with magazines I've researched. There is nothing wrong with this and it suits my general approach to writing. However, this year, I'd like to shift slightly to focus on both targeting before I start writing so that the story is better aligned with my chosen publication's needs, as well as research more publications in depth so that I get a better sense of how what I've already written can align with that magazine's audience. Currently, I am targeting [Wanderlust Journal](#) with a piece about the day I spent in Mostar with my family. I'll let you know how it turns out. 😊

Writing Instruction that meets your goals

There is a great deal of writing instruction out there, and it's important to know what your goals are in order to filter that guidance to what you are particularly working on at the moment, and avoid the rest so as not to be overwhelmed (and never actually get the chance to write!). I subscribe to [Write or Die Magazine](#), [Authors Publish Magazine](#), [The Forever Workshop](#) and [The Writers Bridge](#), which means I receive their free newsletters offering general writing advice and updates on their platforms. In nearly every newsletter, many intriguing paid and unpaid instructional sessions on many aspects of craft and

publishing are advertised.

I subscribe to these four newsletters, and I find the collective level of content overwhelming. Imagine if I allowed myself to subscribe to the countless others offering their advice and services! If I spent all my time on just the sessions offered by the four platforms I choose to receive emails from, I would be broke and have zero time left over for writing. Therefore, this year I will be filtering my listening time and the amount of money I spend to sessions that convince me of their relevance to my goals—sessions that focus on editing and advanced instruction that aims to help writers take their work to a higher level. As for my third goal of targeting specific magazines, I believe I can do this one without further instruction, and just need to focus on achieving!

I hope this little dive into writing goals and how we are spending our time and money to achieve them has helped you consider your own year ahead with a bit more intentionality.

Writing prompt a: List your 2025 writing goals. What kinds of paid and unpaid instruction would you ideally need to help you achieve those goals?

Writing prompt b: What writing newsletters are you subscribed to? How well are they serving you? Are there any newsletters you need to cut this year?

Question for you: What are your 2025 writing goals? I'd love to know! How will they structure your writing instruction intake this year?

"I loved this book and I learned so much. I wish I'd had this before writing my memoir, but believe me, I'll use it from here on."

Marilyn Abildskov, author of *The Men in My Country*, Professor, MFA Program in Creative Writing, Saint Mary's College of California

