

## Writing With The Senses – Session 5 – Wrap Up

Well, folks... we've taken a look at the way to use sensory triggers to evoke mood and emotion, and to basically enrich a scene with more depth. Then we got into dialogue, POV (a little bit), and the ultimate issue of balance. We did critiques and open forum questions. Whew, what a ride!

I think the main thing to convey is twofold:

1. Each writer has their own style. Some excel in dialogue, POV, or narrative. Go with your strong suit. So, for example, if you write good dialogue, begin there by adding this new technique of sensory awareness to that which you've already mastered, and so forth. It will make what you already do well, sparkle. But if you go into an area of weakness and try to add in all this new stuff you're not used to working with and haven't gained dexterity using, you can hurt what is blossoming. Master the area, and then add in new skills. The basics, then the advanced levels... I hope what I just said makes sense (chuckle.)
2. Each genre has its own limits, requirements, rules and reader expectations. Be SURE you know the rules and general written and unwritten parameters of the specific genre you're working within. The amount and placement of sensory data can be dependent on the genre you're in—this is key. I know for a fact that, in a romance, the love scenes HAVE GOT to sizzle. In classic horror, the readers want to be scared to death, so the suspense elements require the sensory overload. In crime, same thing... but a little blood and guts is a basic. Readers want details of the crime or murder scenario. Even sub-genres within genres have their own rules... in vamp novels, ya better pay attention to blood & teeth (wink!)

Overall, however, I think throughout this week, we got a chance to really workshop some good passages, see what worked, what didn't, and flesh out great scenes. I hope that each critique will help the writer who submitted it feel more confident in their work as they move forward. There wasn't a submission that I read that needed to be scraped, or anything that wasn't "fixable." Truthfully, in most of the stories I really wanted to know what happens next (being nosy, LOL)... but that meant your characters grabbed me, their plights and dilemmas piqued my interest with a strong storyline basis.

So, WRITE ON folks... thank you, again, so much for allowing me to be your workshop leader for this week!

Big Hug from Philly, Leslie!