

The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

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Inspection Checklist #11

Writing Style Concise and Specific

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	Have you gone through your scenes to ensure the characters' narrative voices are different from your "writer's" voice?	
QUESTION #2	What genre are you writing in? Have you studied numerous novels in your genre to "get" the range of writing styles that are appropriate?	
QUESTION #3	Have you done a search through your document for your weasel words and removed or replaced with stronger words?	
QUESTION #4	Have you done a search for weak construction, such as <i>ly</i> and <i>ing</i> to find passive voice and adverbs that may be causing clunky writing?	
QUESTION #5	Have you gone through every sentence to make sure you've chosen the best, most appropriate words to convey your intended meaning?	
QUESTION #6	Can you find passages or scenes you sense are forced, pretentious, or fake? Try freewriting a new scene with simple, honest intent. Any better?	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	Read through your scenes and pay attention to how your body feels. Do any passages feel “wrong” to you? If so, try rewriting until they feel right.	
QUESTION #8	Do you spend time reading great novels? Who are your favorite authors in your genre? Are you taking time to read to inspire your writing? If not, schedule it!	
QUESTION #9	What type of tone is best for your book? Have you gone through your scenes to bring out that tone through all the narrative?	
QUESTION #10	Have you thought about how much or little you want your “writing voice” to come through your narrative? What’s best for your genre?	
QUESTION #11	Do you struggle with grammar, punctuation, and word usage? If so, have you committed to buying some books and/or taking English classes to improve?	
QUESTION #12	Have you given yourself permission to “let yourself go” and experiment with your writing style? If not, be brave and take risks!	

Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting Writing Style Concise and Specific: