



Lead•Engage•Activate•Drive



Women
With
Disabilities
Australia
(WWDA)



Writing An Engaging Blog or Story

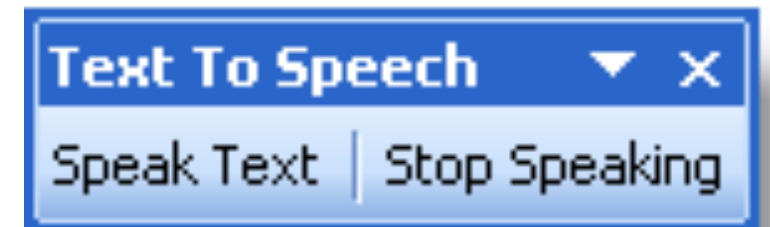
Choosing a Topic

- Something our community can relate to and that will leave the reader with an **emotional** response.
- E.g., Do you want your reader to **resonate** with your daily experiences of issues you face as a disabled woman, girl, or gender diverse person? To feel **inspired** by somebody else's leadership journey? To feel **empowered** to seek workplace accommodations?
- Something you feel confident in sharing, on a topic you know that you can speak to and is **your story** to tell.



Tone and Voice

- We want to hear **your** story, **your** opinions, **your** analysis – be you, not somebody else!
- **Tip:** If it is accessible to you, reading your writing out loud can help you figure out if you're staying true to your voice. Does it sound how you'd normally speak? Try using a text-to-speech software like [NaturalReader](#) to help.



Structure

- **Intro** – Hook people! Start with a strong sentence that poses a problem or a question.
- **Body** – Explore your issue. To stay on topic, it can be helpful to always ask how your body paragraphs are responding to the problem/question you posed in the intro.
- **Conclusion** – The takeaway. What do you want people to be feeling? Is there action you want them to take?
- **Tip: Try drafting your structure before you start writing. Making a dot-point list of the important things you want to communicate can help you arrange your ideas into a flow that works well.**

For example:

- **Introduction**

- Begin by telling your audience what topic you might be writing about.
- *“I began writing children’s books featuring characters with disability and illness after living with my own chronic illnesses.”*

- **Body**

- How did you get here? What inspired you to speak about this topic?
- *“My journey thus far has taught me that to support other people, I must first love myself and must appreciate that the journey I have been on has been hard but can be used to make another person’s life just a little easier.”*

- **Conclusion**

- Leave the reader feeling like they can empathise with your story or experience.
- *“Apart from being a children’s author with chronic illness, I am the founder of Forevability. Alongside my fabulous co-founder, Amy, I use Forevability as a platform to begin making small changes. On the surface, it is a collection of resources relating to disability, illness, diversity and inclusion; it is a place where those who want to learn, and those who need support can come and find information, authors and other resources when they need it. It is a network of amazing, creative people who gladly and passionately share their own experiences.”*

Excerpts from [Tabitha Page’s blog – Empowering others to love themselves](#)

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Getting Creative!

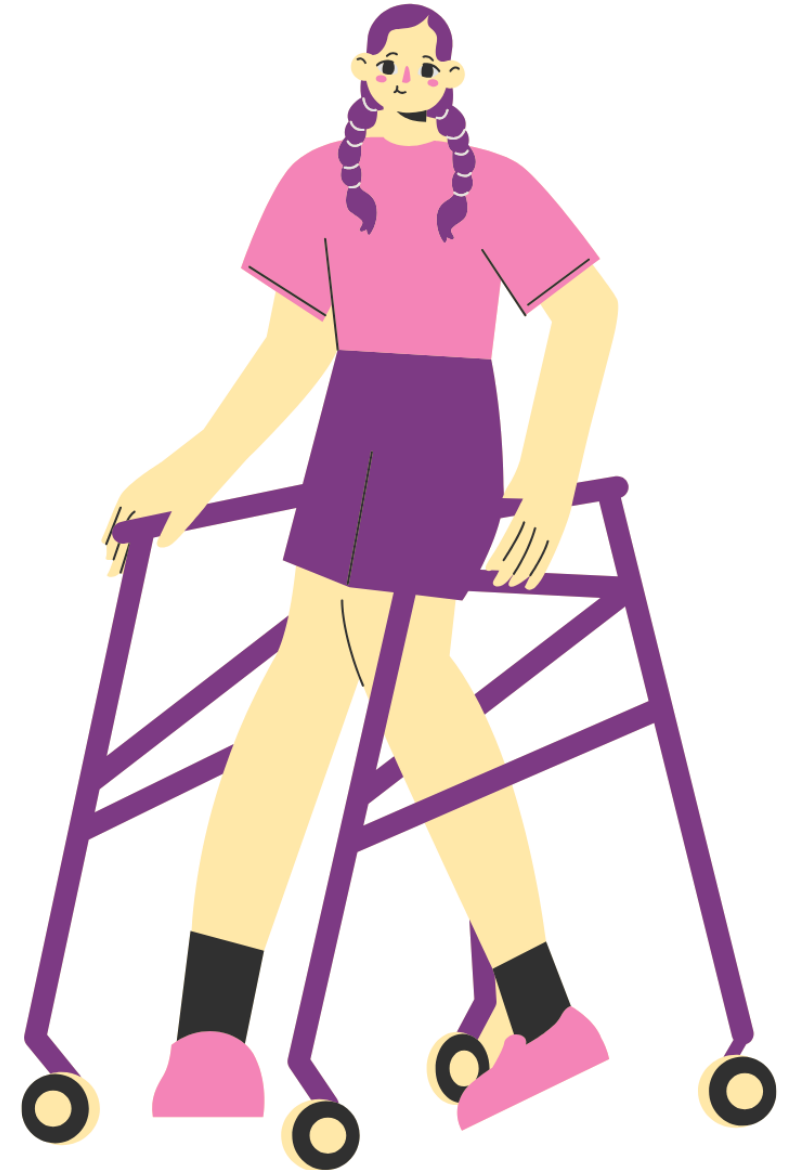
- Do you want to incorporate a poem? Publish a collage? **Use whatever form feels most accessible.**
- Play to the audience's **senses**. One of our great strengths as disabled and neurodivergent people is our **relationship to the sensory world**.
- E.g., *“The air is stuffy in that room, and I feel like I could suffocate, so I try to inhale deeply. All I cop is a nostril full of the previous person’s body odour and I feel the vomit rising again...”* - Tabitha Lean, [The Waiting Room and Hep C](#)



Art by Tabitha Lean accompanying *The Waiting Room and Hep C*, published on the WWDA Blog.

A Note on Writing Trauma

- As women and gender diverse people with disabilities, a lot of us have experienced different forms of violence. Writing about this can be **healing!**
- It's also important to set boundaries with ourselves. This can look like asking ourselves questions when writing like:
 - How will I feel when this gets shared on social media?
 - Am I okay with everyone reading this?
 - What tense am I writing in? Can writing in present tense help me avoid flashbacks of the past?
 - Can I contrast the heavy moments I'm writing about with the everyday?
- The most important thing is that **you are in control of what you choose to write**. WWDA will always support you to be.



The Submission Process

- **Pitching** and confirming the topic/angle of your blog post.
- Writing and submitting a **first draft through our blog or story submission form**.
- Someone on the WWDA team will then provide you with a **copy-edit** of your draft.
- Making any suggested **changes/edits**, approving **final piece for publication**.
- Finalising **title, accompanying image, author name, author bio, and social media handles** you would like tagged alongside the piece.
- Signing WWDA's [Publication of Creative Work consent form](#).
- Arranging **payment (\$100)**.

Thank you!

Thank you to Hasib Hourani and his 'Left to Write' workshop series, which informed the development of this presentation.

Pitch to: blogs@wwda.org.au

