



Latinx Superfriends Playwriting Hour

WITH TLALOC RIVAS

13 APRIL 2020 | HOWLROUND

1. What Didn't Break You Made You Stronger

1. Write down a list of moments, accomplishments, milestones that have impacted you the most. Focus on what you've personally experienced from your perspective only. From birth to the present.

Write for **[5 minutes]**

2. Top Three Moments

2. Look at your 1st list of moments – choose your Top Three moments. If you had something in mind that you were not able to include in the 1st prompt – you may add it here. Write for **[3 minutes]**

- ▶ *Prompt #1: Write down a list of moments, accomplishments, milestones that have impacted you the most. Focus on what you've personally experienced from your perspective only. From birth to the present.*

3. Freewrite ONE moment

3. Choose ONE of your Top Three moments and write about it. Include any important details that matter to you. Trust your impulses and keep writing without pausing. Write for **[4 minutes]**
 - ▶ *Prompt #1: Write down a list of moments, accomplishments, milestones that have impacted you the most. Focus on what you've personally experienced from your perspective only. From birth to the present.*
 - ▶ *Prompt #2: Look at your 1st list of moments – choose your Top Three moments. If you had something in mind that you were not able to include in the 1st prompt – you may add it here.*

4. Describe Someone from your Moment

4. From the Top Moment you've just written about, choose a character (*could be you, could be someone else, could be a 'thing'*) and describe them/it. What makes them, '*them*'? Not necessarily who they are, but what they '*do*' – how they operate in the world. What makes them '*tick*'?

Write for **[5 minutes]**

- ▶ *Prompt #1: Write down a list of moments, accomplishments, milestones that have impacted you the most. Focus on what you've personally experienced from your perspective only. From birth to the present.*
- ▶ *Prompt #2: Look at your 1st list of moments – choose your Top Three moments. If you had something in mind that you were not able to include in the 1st prompt – you may add it here.*
- ▶ *Prompt #3: Choose ONE of your Top Three moments and write about it. Include any important details that matter to you. Trust your impulses and keep writing without pausing.*

5. (last one) Abecedarian

5. Write a series of sentences/lines your character would say – either aloud to others, to themselves, or in their own thoughts – using an ABECEDARIAN a.k.a. each line beginning via the order of the alphabet. They don't have to be connected. The more random the better. For example:

Another day, another dollar.

Before I met your father, I was happy.

Cochino! Go take a shower! ... etc.

Write for **[5 minutes]**

- ▶ *Prompt #1: Write down a list of moments, accomplishments, milestones that have impacted you the most. Focus on what you've personally experienced from your perspective only. From birth to the present.*
- ▶ *Prompt #2: Look at your 1st list of moments – choose your Top Three moments. If you had something in mind that you were not able to include in the 1st prompt – you may add it here.*
- ▶ *Prompt #3: Choose ONE of your Top Three moments and write about it. Include any important details that matter to you. Trust your impulses and keep writing without pausing.*
- ▶ *Prompt #4: from the Top Moment you've just written about, choose a character (could be you, could be someone else, could be a 'thing') and describe them/it. What makes them, 'them'? Not necessarily who they are, but what they 'do' – how they operate in the world. What makes them 'tick'?*

Tlaloc's Tips for Writing (Practice)

1. The Pomodoro Technique

A 'pomodoro' is twenty-five minutes of continuous, uninterrupted work, followed by five minutes of rest.

1 'pomodoro' = 25 minutes of writing + 5 min break

2 'pomodoros' = 25 minutes of writing + 5 min break (x 2)

You can do pomodoro's anytime (*once in the a.m. / in the evening, etc.*)

Keep track of 'Pomodoros' in a calendar/journal [*3 pomodoros a week for beginners - 6 intermediate - 9 advanced*]

ADVANCED VERSION: *wear a blindfold or turn off your screen as you write/type (so you aren't tempted to edit/correct as you go)*



Tlaloc's Tips for Writing (Practice)

2. The 'Magic Three'

- Reach a goal to write 3 pages a day, 3 days a week

Beginners: start with a goal of at least ½ page - 1 page per day, 3 days a week

- [Example: write 1 page Mon, 1 page Weds, 1 page Fri]

Intermediate: start with a goal of at least 2 pages a day, 3 days a week

- [Example: write 2 pages Mon, 2 pages Weds, 2 pages Fri]

Advanced: start with a goal of at least 3 pages a day, 3 days a week

- [Example: write 3 pages Mon, 3 pages Weds, 3 pages Fri]

Writing as a weekly practice

1 page x 3 days

3 pages a week

= a 10-min play in 3 weeks

= festival play (25-45 pages) in 6-10 weeks

= full-length one-act (45-75 pgs) in 10-14 weeks

= full-length play in two-acts (75-120 pgs) in 15-20 weeks

[one of each in a year]

2 pages x 3 days

6 pages a week

= a 10-min play in 1.5 - 2 weeks

= festival play (30-45 pages) in 5-7 weeks

= full-length one-act (45-75 pgs) in 7-10 weeks

= full-length play in two-acts (75-120 pgs) in 12-18 weeks

[2 one-acts + 2 full-length a year]

3 pages x 3 days

9 pages a week

= a 10-min play in 1 week / 1 day

= festival play (30-45 pages) in 3-5 weeks

= full-length one-act (45-75 pgs) in 6-9 weeks

= full-length play in two-acts (75-120 pgs) in 9-12 weeks

[4-5 full-length plays a year]

Script Format(s)

- ▶ If the # of pages sounds intimidating – don't worry about it; you format a playscript with at least a space between stage directions/dialogue, etc. For example:

(Herbert walks up to Juliette.)

Herbert: I heard you were talking about me.

Hazel: I wasn't talking about you.

Herbert: That's not what I heard.

Hazel: Well, you heard wrong, *baboso!*

(Juliette turns on her heels and goes.)

Screenplay Format

Excerpt from:

JOJO RABBIT

by Taika Waititi

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - ROSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jojo watches as his mother fixes her hair in the mirror.
They're wearing matching pyjamas.

JOJO

And do you miss Inga?

ROSIE

Like the moon misses the sun.

JOJO

And do you love anyone else?

ROSIE

Apart from you and Papa and Inga? MYSELF
obviously. Pff.

(beat)

Now, I left my favourite scarf in a
dream, could you be a darling and go get
it for me?

JOJO

Huh?

ROSIE

Bedtime!

Beginning Your Play

- ▶ Using the lists, the acebedarian, the 'character' you created, etc. – freewrite answers for the following questions:
- ▶ **What does your character want?** (in a few sentences)
- ▶ **What is in their way?** (in a few sentences)
- ▶ **What will they have to sacrifice/give up in order to get what they want?** (in a few sentences)

These are your raw materials to begin your play. Your character expresses a want. Then, a situation happens where they discover they can't get that want. And then they try to figure out how to get the thing they wanted – but **THEY MUST RISK/SACRIFICE** something to get it.