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CCWC newsletter *WaveLength*, 2009 Conference Issue, 2 pages

"Tips on Fiction Writing for the CCWC 2009 Conference"
compiled by
Anita D. McClellan, Conference B Editor in Residence

- Use your imagination. Trust me, your lives are not interesting.
-- W. B. Kinsella, *Shoeless Joe*
- To write fiction, one needs a whole series of inspirations about people in an actual environment, and then a whole lot of work on the basis of those inspirations. -- Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*
- Writing a novel is like driving a car at night. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way. --E. L. Doctorow, *The March, Ragtime*
- "If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time or the tools to write." -- Stephen King, horror
- A story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end...but not necessarily in that order. -- Jean-Luc Godard, *Breathless*
- To have something to say is a question of sleepless nights and worry and endless ratiocination of a subject--of endless trying to dig out of the essential truth, the essential justice. -- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- It begins with a character, usually, and once he stands up on his feet and begins to move, all I can do is trot along behind him with a paper and pencil trying to keep up long enough to put down what he says and does. --William Faulkner
- A story is about **the** moment in time.--W. D. Wetherell, *A Century of November*
- Put weather in. --Joseph Hansen, crime fiction featuring David Brandstetter
- As for the adjective, when in doubt leave it out. --Mark Twain
- All the information you need can be given in dialogue. --Elmore Leonard, *Get Shorty* (P. 2 OF 2 FOLLOWS)

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- Don't mistake a good setup for a satisfying conclusion. -- Stanley Schmidt, *Tweedlioop*
- Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good. --William Faulkner
- An author is one who can judge his own stuff's worth, without pity, and destroy most of it. --Colette, *Cheri*
- Style is just the outside of content, and content the inside of style, like the outside and the inside of the human body. Both go together, they can't be separated. --Jean-Luc Godard
- One of my students wrote a story about a nun who got a piece of dental floss stuck between her lower left molars, and who couldn't get it out all day long. I thought that was wonderful. The story dealt with issues a lot more important than dental floss, but what kept readers going was anxiety about when the dental floss would finally be removed. Nobody could read that story without fishing around in his mouth with a finger. --Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Slaughterhouse-Five*

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