



## ***The Engineer's Guide to Writing Fiction***

### **What is it?**

The *Engineer's Guide* is designed to jumpstart a technical person into the world of writing fiction. The author, an ex-engineer who worked in the industry for over twenty years, has taken his knowledge base of learning how to write fiction and reduced it into a forty-four page e-book. His intention is that the engineer will benefit by avoiding the pratfalls that the author encountered.

### **What does the author mean by “learning how to write fiction?”**

This is not a grammar course. The author learned early on that becoming a writer of fiction required a strong mindset to overcome the stigma that engineer's can't write. Often times the engineer would like to write fiction stories but doesn't know where to start. The *Engineer's Guide* offers specific paths for the engineer and proven methods of obtaining success.

### **Why is it designed only for engineers?”**

This course would be helpful for anyone who would like to learn to write fiction but the author has geared it for technical persons, having had the experience. Here are some groups of people who would especially benefit from it:

- ✚ “Silicon Valley” engineers and technical persons.
- ✚ University students (electrical and mechanical engineering majors).
- ✚ Vocational school technical students.
- ✚ Technical personnel assigned overseas (only require internet access).

### **How long does the course take?**

The course contains eight lessons and each lesson has tasks associated with it. Examples of tasks are creating a blog, writing articles, joining an internet writing forum, and evaluating your present skills. The author mentions a 6-8 week time frame but realizes that this is just the first step in an effort that can take months or years depending on the individual.

### **What are the author's expectations for the student upon completion of the course?**

The student should have:

- ✚ An ongoing desire to improve your grammar and refer to “The Elements of Style” (your bible) and internet reference sources. You will write clear, crisp sentences in your blog articles and short stories that get directly to the point.

- ✚ Have a clear understanding of the elements that make up a story (an idea, vivid characters, conflict, et al) and realize that editing is the key to successful writing whether it be a memo at work, an article in an Ezine, or your first novel.
- ✚ Have a blog up and running with a theme that represents your passion. You should have plans to convert this to a .com website.
- ✚ Post well-written articles on your blog (or website) that make a statement about the student.
- ✚ Understand the value of twitter, squidoo, and other web tools that in the future will be valuable assets when marketing your novel. Early on they are excellent learning tools for the student.
- ✚ Join at least one writing forum and contribute often.
- ✚ Keep a daily journal of your ideas, thoughts, and observations.
- ✚ Respect your day job but conclude that a 24/7 mentality doesn't allow you to do other things in your life. Without others realizing it your 24/7 ratio is creeping towards 8/5 because you've learned that "time is money."
- ✚ Move out of your comfort zone on a regular basis, feeling good about yourself and grow as a result.
- ✚ Pay more attention to people: they may be characters in your novel!

Please sign up for *An Engineer's Guide to Writing Fiction* at my website:

<http://www.doylematthewsnovels.com> (scroll down BLOGROLL). I will inform you when the e-book is available for sale.

For more information I have started up a blog dedicated to engineers who want to learn to write fiction: <http://www.doylematthewsnovels.com/engineers-guide>.