

WRITING FUNDAMENTAL SERIES

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**The
POV & Voice
Workbook**

by

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About the Author

Heena Rathore-Pardeshi is an award-winning novelist, developmental editor, and creative writing mentor with over a decade of experience helping writers shape powerful stories.

She has taught hundreds of writers through her courses, workshops, and editing programs, and has

worked with bestselling authors, debut novelists, and publishing houses across India and abroad. She has also worked with multiple American and British production houses for turning books into scripts.

Her own works, including the acclaimed psychological thriller *Deceived*, gothic Indian-folklore horror *The Manor* and her upcoming book *The Art of Storytelling*, are known for their depth, atmosphere, and intricate psychological layering.

A passionate reader (she reads over 100 books a year), Heena brings to her teaching a rare blend of literary insight, structural precision, and emotional intelligence. Through her YouTube channel and Verbatik Media, she continues to build spaces for writers to learn, create, and grow.



Introduction

Why POV & Voice Matter More Than You Think?

Most writers don't struggle because they lack ideas. They struggle because they're telling the right story through the wrong lens.

Point of View (POV) and Voice are not stylistic flourishes. They are foundational narrative decisions. They determine:

- What the reader knows
- What the reader feels
- How close the reader stands to the story
- And whether the story feels intimate, distant, urgent, or flat

When POV is unclear, stories feel confusing. When voice is weak, stories feel generic. When both are misaligned, even strong plots collapse under their own weight.

This workbook will help you figure out which voice and POV best serves your story. Throughout these pages, you'll examine:

- Who is truly telling your story
- Where your narrative authority comes from
- How voice emerges from character psychology—not language tricks
- And how POV and voice must work together, not

- separately

Take your time with this workbook. Return to it whenever your narrative feels distant, overwritten, or emotionally dull.

That discomfort is usually a POV or voice problem, whether we recognize it or not.

HEENA

How to Use This Workbook

This workbook is designed to be used alongside or after the POV & Voice live session.

You will get the most out of it if you:

- Print the pages (recommended)
- Write by hand where possible
- Apply each exercise to one active story or idea

There are no right or wrong answers here, only clearer ones.

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Notes

SECTION 1

WHAT IS POV?

Exercise 1.1: POV Anchor Identification

Answer these questions honestly, based on your current story or idea:

1. Whose inner world does the reader spend the most time in?

2. Who experiences the most emotional change by the end?

3. Who has the most at stake emotionally, not just plot-wise?

4. If this story had to be told as a confession, whose would it be?

If all or most answers point to one character, that character is your primary POV anchor.

If they don't, your story may be struggling because it hasn't chosen yet.

Exercise 1.2: POV Authority Check

Fill in the table below for your story:

Role	Who is it?	What do they know?
Author		
Narrator		
POV Character		

Now reflect:

- Are there moments where the narration knows more than the POV character reasonably could?
- Are there explanations that feel like you talking, not the character thinking?

Write one example you suspect might be POV slippage:



SECTION 2

CHOOSING THE RIGHT POV

Exercise 2.1" POV Possibility Test

Take your story idea and test it across POVs.

Story premise (1-2 lines):

Now answer:

First Person POV

- What does this POV intensify?

- What does it limit?

Third Person Limited

- What does this POV allow you to explore?

- What must remain hidden?

Third Person Omniscient

- What additional layers become possible?

- What emotional risks does this carry?

Circle the POV that best serves emotion, not convenience.

Exercise 2.2: POV Commitment Statement

Complete this sentence:

I am choosing _____ POV because it allows me to tell this story with the greatest emotional honesty.



SECTION 3

COMMON POV MISTAKES

Exercise 3.1: POV Drift Checklist

Tick any that apply to your draft:

- I describe thoughts my POV character cannot know
- I describe scenes my POV character is not present in
- I jump between multiple heads in the same scene
- I explain things instead of letting the POV experience them
- My narration sounds neutral, not personal

Action Step:

Which one will you consciously fix in your next revision?

SECTION 4

UNDERSTANDING VOICE

Exercise 4.1: Voice Is Not...

Tick what voice is not in your story:

- Fancy language
- Accent spelling
- Over-description
- Sarcasm alone
- Vocabulary tricks

Reflection: What is voice then, in your own words?

Exercise 4.2: Character Voice DNA

Answer for your POV character:

1. One word they would never use:

2. One word they overuse:

3. Their emotional default (e.g., defensive, ironic, hopeful):

- Their relationship with silence (avoid it / seek it / fear it):



SECTION 5

VOICE ON THE PAGE

Exercise 5.1: Same Moment, Three Voices

Write the same moment three ways.

Moment:

A character enters a room they haven't been in for years.

Version A: Neutral

Version B: Emotionally Charged

Version C: Character-Specific Voice

Compare B and C: What changed when the character

took control?



SECTION 6

VOICE CONSISTENCY CHECK

Exercise 6.1: Voice Anchors

Complete these for your POV character:

- My character notices details related to:

- My character ignores:

- My character interprets the world through
(fear/logic/humour/memory/belief):

Keep this visible while revising.

SECTION 10

SCENE CYCLE

(STRUCTURE CHECK)

ACTION UNIT (What happens)

- Goal:

- Conflict:

- Outcome:

REACTION UNIT (What it causes)

- Emotional reaction:

- Processing/reflection:

CONGRATULATIONS!!

You've finished the POV & Voice Workbook.

Remember: POV gives your story direction. Voice gives it life.

When both are aligned, readers don't just read your story, they experience and live it.

Keep this workbook close and return to it every time your writing feels flat, distant, or confused.

STAY CONNECTED

**Continue your writing journey with me
and the Writing Fundamentals
community.**

**You'll find more workbooks, resources,
and upcoming live sessions here 📌**

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