



*(Fig. 1 The Artist at Work)*

## **DO'S AND DON'T'S FOR STRUGGLING WRITERS**

**DO** listen to that little voice, the one that sounds like Darth Vader holding you up by your neck, which is telling you that you have nothing of value to say.

**DO** become a lush and flagrant (and/or fragrant) alcoholic (see above Fig. 1). This will help you when it comes to dreaming up material. Pour another shot. Don't mind if I do.

**DON'T** revise. It kills your instincts.

**DON'T** pay any attention to other better or more successful writers. Who made them and their cronies in the publishing or academic worlds the arbiters of taste and artistic merit anyhow? And their sanctimonious readers can go fall on rakes, as well.

**DO** subjugate all other needs and attachments to the overarching ambition of becoming a professional word-jockey. This applies especially to men and women with families. Never sacrifice a minute for these dream-killers.

**DON'T** read the works of classic literature. Watch the movies instead. Who's got three weeks to find out if Gregory Peck kills the white whale?

**DON'T** write what you know. Write about walruses. And kimchi. Make it all up. People will believe you.

**DON'T** employ superlatives. Especially alliterative superlatives. Example: *The Great Gatsby* becomes **GATSBY**. Have James Cameron direct it. You can write the captions.

**DON'T** let anything distract you while you write. I was writing *Help, my Dad Married a MILF* on 9/11 in a Starbucks in Lower Manhattan. I finished that hot tub scene against all odds. Obviously, there were many variations on the heroic ideal on display that fall day.

**DO** read those wacky French theorists like Lacan and Derrida. You're going to need your sleep if you want to be a good writer!

*(Think of any more??? Let me know at [submissions@typeabpositive..com](mailto:submissions@typeabpositive..com)!)*