**Creating a Mission Statement for Your Writing**

**The Book Whisperer**

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*PART ONE*

*Suggested Preparation:*

* Read Audre Lorde’s speech, “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action,” https://electricliterature.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/silenceintoaction.pdf
* Complete +/or contemplate the questions below. You will be more fluent at writing a manifesto if you do this.
1. Do some soul searching. Ask yourself: Who am I? Where am I from? What do I have to say? What topics keep me up at night? What matters to me? What do I care about? What concerns me?
2. If you had the chance to write just one book, what would it be about? What book that has not been written is the book you want to write? That you want to be known for?
3. Look to your passions and purpose. For that, LOOK TO YOUR ACTIONS. Where and how do you spend your time? Be honest. If you’re not happy with that right now, you can change it. But better to be honest than write a faux manifesto.
4. How are you unique? What are your unique strengths and abilities? Qualities? What are you flawed at? What do you wish you could change about yourself?
5. Ask a friend or relative why they are drawn to you, and how would they describe you?
6. You might also think of a favorite musician, singer, person from history etc. Often who we admire is part of who we are. It can help us name it in us**.**
	* 1. For ex, Joni Mitchell sparks me; her concerns are: freedom, control, love, home, the road, loneliness, solitary traveler, romantic chronicler, love and breakups, is freedom worth it?, restlessness, conflicts around relationships and responsibility, being a woman and having something you must do.

*PART TWO*

**FOLLOW THESE PROMPTS TO GENERATE MATERIAL FOR YOUR MISSION STATEMENT**

What would I write if I knew I would be dead in 6 months? (5min)

What’s your writing superpower? (5min)

What are my lifetime writing goals? (5 min)

My Mission: (7-8min)—write down any words from the free writes above. Look for emotion words, or words with a particular tone or energy. You might also think of core value words from your pre-work. Can you see any common threads that connect some of your goals?

My Writing Manifesto: (10 min) – this will be a draft you will revise