

How “Real” Writers Write

“The beautiful part of writing is that you don’t have to get it right the first time, unlike, say, a brain surgeon. You can always do it better, find the exact word, the apt phrase, the leaping simile.”
Robert Cormier

“By the time I am nearing the end of a story, the first part will have been reread and altered and corrected at least one hundred and fifty times...Good writing is essentially rewriting. I am positive of this.”
Roald Dahl

“I rewrote the ending to *Farewell to Arms*, the last page of it, thirty-nine times before I was satisfied.”
Ernest Hemingway

“The pleasure IS the rewriting. The first sentence can’t be written until the final sentence is written.”
Joyce Carol Oates

“The best part of all, the absolutely most delicious part, is finishing then doing it over. That’s the thrill of a lifetime for me...I rewrite a lot, over and over again, so that it looks like I never did it. I try to make it look like I never touched it, and that takes a lot of time and a lot of sweat.”
Toni Morrison