

---

From the Selected Works of Everett N K Ofori

---

May 15, 2014

# Writing Showcase

Everett N K Ofori



Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/everettofori/47/>

# Writing Showcase

www.writingexpertonline.com

*If you think you're six feet tall,  
and some insist you're only four;  
changing that deficit in vision,  
should that be your primary mission?*

- Everett Ofori (Editor)

May 15, 2014 Vol 6 No 3

## Soft Voice; Clear Head

In preparing a group of high school students for their oral exams, I had to drill them in the principles of public speaking.

The course involved having the students give brief speeches for which I gave them feedback.

One sixteen-year-old girl had a voice so soft that everyone in the class had to strain to hear her.

Initially, I told her point blank that she had to raise her voice. This did not help.

Later on, I tried to get her to stand as far away from the audience as possible, hoping that this would show her the plain necessity of speaking up. This did not help.

Now, this student, despite her wispy voice, was a good student. Her presentations were good -- only no one could hear them to appreciate them!

### CONTENTS

### Page

#### Expressing Myself:

**US & Japan ..... 5**

**Kei Nishikori ..... 7**

**The Red Eye ..... 10**

Finally, I thought I would use a nifty psychology trick to get her to set her voice free. I was pumped.

I told her, "Imagine that you are standing at a bus stop, and looking across the road, you see your best friend. She cannot see you, however, because her back is turned to you. Demonstrate for me how you would shout out your friend's name. Come on. Try it. Call your friend, as loudly as possible. Go!"

As softly as ever, she replied: "I will call her on my cellphone."

Sigh.

Student: 1.

Teacher: 0.

*Writing  
Showcase*

# **Guaranteed Formula for**



# **Public Speaking Success**

by

**Everett Ofori, MBA**

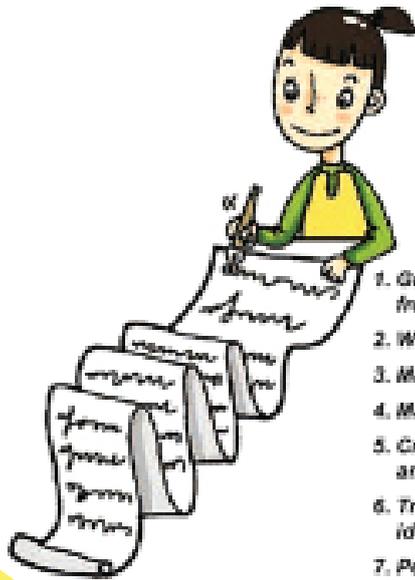
The parade of individuals who have risen from obscurity to public prominence on the strength of their public speaking abilities includes the following: Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Sojourner Truth, Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Dr. Cornel West, and Anthony Robbins. Discover your own gifts as a public speaker. Get your copy of *Guaranteed Formula for Public Speaking* today!

**Available at: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) / [www.amazon.co.jp](http://www.amazon.co.jp)**

# Writing Showcase

Everett Ofori, MBA

## Guaranteed Formula for Writing Success



### Learn how to...

1. Grab your reader's attention from the get-go
2. Write clear, crisp copy
3. Make your meaning clear
4. Make your writing sing
5. Create believable characters and scenarios
6. Transform your mind into an idea factory
7. Perk up pompous, flabby prose
8. Write about anything, anywhere, anytime!

If  
you can  
think well,  
plan well, speak  
well, and write well,  
you have all that you  
need to change the  
course of human history...  
or at least, your own history.

[www.writingexpertonline.com](http://www.writingexpertonline.com)

Everett Ofori, MBA

Lo

See

Fee

Look



Knee

Ho

# Read Assure

Guaranteed Formula for  
Reading Success with Phonics

Cat

Know

Go

So

You are  
great!

Bat

Pretty

## Writing Showcase

### How Should I Express My Ideas in the U.S. and Japan?

Last month, in the United States, I participated in a franchise training program associated with children's education, and during that period I enjoyed daily life in San Francisco.

However, I had a hard time expressing my ideas during the training program. Staff of the parent company indicated to me that I had a "language barrier."

I feel that I need to take into account the differences in culture between the U.S. and Japan if I am to communicate well in either place.

There were only two participants in the training. The other participant was from Canada.



**Matsugu Mutsumi**  
(Japanese language instructor,  
Tokyo, Japan)

Actually, she had immigrated from China as a university student.

When she gave her opinion, she continued to express many ideas in succession. She could not stop talking!

She continued to state her reasons, provide examples, and lead up firmly towards a conclusion.

Also, she seemed to like sharing her personal story.

At times, I was surprised by why she continued to hammer home her opinions, however, she seemed to know how to persuade, appeal to, and communicate with the training staff.

Not surprisingly, the staff members seemed to have a good impression of her.

In my case, I tried to share my opinions as much as I could in the training, however, I felt a sense of deficiency in my communication and vocabulary. Sometimes, I hesitated.

*...continued on page 6*

## Writing Showcase

However, I was in the U.S., so I needed to learn more about how to communicate with American people in the business world and in society as a whole.

After I came back to Japan, I continued to take private English lessons with Mr. Everett. I had a good time taking these lessons. Also, I decided that I would take another English class for a month. I thought I needed to develop some other skills by taking a discussion class.

Yesterday was the first day of the English discussion class. There were four business people in the class. The American teacher was good and supportive of me.

Though they spoke English very well with good grammar, the other students did not share their opinions very much. As such, the atmosphere in the class was so quiet. I tried to keep quiet like the other classmates because I thought I should hold back my positive attitude in the class.

However, I changed my mind after the first fifteen minutes. My purpose for attending the class was to improve my communication skills. I did not want to forget the difficulty I had experienced communicating in the United States.

Therefore, I gradually began to give my opinion. The topic of our business class was "Conflict." I have had a hard time dealing with conflict among staff members in my office. So, I talked about some of my experiences in the class. The teacher responded to my opinions in a friendly way. Some classmates, however, continued to stare at their textbooks.

The communication style between the U.S. and Japan is so different. I do not want to say that one communication style is better than the other. However, I have a goal to work in the U.S. and I would like to brush up my English skills even if it means having to embarrass myself in English class from time to time.

## Writing Showcase

Tomohiro Yoshida  
Research scientist  
(Tsukuba, Japan)



### The Davis Cup: An Agonizing Spectacle

**K**ei Nishikori, a top Japanese tennis player has performed remarkably well in recent years. He is only 24 years old, but he has already been ranked among the top 20 in the Association of Tennis Professionals Rankings. It is the highest ranking of all time for any Japanese male tennis player. Of course, he is very popular with Japanese tennis fans now.

Nishikori was scheduled to play in a game in Japan at the beginning of April. It was a Davis Cup match-up event among national teams of many countries.

The Japan national tennis team, of which Nishikori is a part, had already won against Canada in the Davis Cup in January 2014. That had also been held in Japan, and he had had two wins in singles games and one win in doubles. It was quite certain that the spectators thoroughly enjoyed his performance.

Since I heard the news of his performance in January, I decided that I would like to watch his play live. So, I bought a ticket to the Davis Cup in April. The opposing team was the Czech Republic. Since the Czech Republic

## Writing Showcase

also had strong tennis players, I expected the games to be quite exciting. However my expectation was met with disappointment. Unfortunately, I have not seen Kei Nishikori live!

His outstanding performance continued until just before the Davis Cup. In March, he continued his winning ways by winning in a Miami tennis tournament, and even defeating Roger Federer at the quarterfinals. Federer is considered a legend among professional male tennis players and ranked in the top 4, so the victory over Federer really inflated my expectation to see Nishikori's performance live in April.

But a tragedy happened after that. Nishikori injured his upper leg muscle due to the spirited game against Federer, and declared that he was cancelling his entry into the scheduled Davis Cup tournament in April. Of course, I went to see the games as previously scheduled, but frankly I was shocked at the absence of Nishikori. What is worse, the Japan national tennis team (without Nishikori) was completely defeated by the Czech Republic.

It was really unfortunate for both me and the Japan national tennis team. However, everyone knows that it's a crucial time for Nishikori, and that it's important for him to seek to avoid serious injury rather than seek victory in the short term. This year, he might rank among the world's top 10 for the first time. It would be a historic first for Japanese male professional tennis players. I really expect that he will do it.

# Writing Showcase

## The Changing Japanese Woman:

*From Yamatonadeshiko to YamatonadeGucci*

大和なでしこからYamatonadeGucci



Everett Ofori

**NEW RELEASE!!!**  
Check it out.

*The Changing Japanese Woman* is a playful book but it captures one of the most important social changes in Japanese society: the embracing of Western values and the apparent loss of *some* traditional Japanese values.

Read *The Changing Japanese Woman: From Yamatonadeshiko to YamatonadeGucci* and decide for yourself whether Japanese women are still wedded to the nostalgic values of yesteryear or the excitement and possibilities of the modern era.

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)  
[www.amazon.co.jp](http://www.amazon.co.jp)

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)  
[www.amazon.co.jp](http://www.amazon.co.jp)

## Writing Showcase

Charlene Chau  
High School Student  
(Hong Kong / United Kingdom)



# THE RED EYE

The wind howled like a wild beast tangled in a net and thrashed its claws on my face. Tiny drops of rain pricked my skin, like javelins hurled by an army of ants.

I opened my eyes.

“Where am I?”

I found myself on the deck of a ship. Its fragile floor creaked under my weight. I couldn't remember where I had started this voyage, nor could I remember what I was doing before I fell asleep. I headed towards the cabin, where I could see a dim candle flickering and casting a long shadow over the white walls.

It was warmer inside than outside. I shifted closer to the candle, so that I could warm my frozen hands. I hesitated. The candle had just started burning. The wax hadn't melted. The stick was still long. And all this would mean...

I searched high and low for a living person. I searched under the beds, I searched in the cupboards, I searched near the bookshelves, but nobody was there. “Hello?” I cried out, aware of a shaking echo that bounced back into my ears.

## Writing Showcase

Then an idea came to my desperate mind. With the candle in one hand, the dancing flame casting light onto the evil grin that had now spread over my face, I tried to melt the lock with the flame. The lock went “click” in the silence and it fell on the floor, shattering the deafening silence.

I rubbed my hands with excitement, like a child waiting to rip his presents open on Boxing Day. I expected to see hundreds of golden coins, flashing like diamonds, shining like stars before my eyes.

But what caught my attention wasn't those delightful, shimmering, shining stars and diamonds.

It was a pirate head.

I cried with fear and staggered backwards. I closed my eyes, for fear the pirate head would rise out of the chest, like a ghostly apparition. Nothing stirred. I opened one eye and peeped. The pirate was still there.

The pirate was quite handsome. He had hair the colour of hazelnuts; it was messily tousled, but there was something sinister about that face. Those eyes. Those terrible, horrible eyes...

One eye was hidden behind a black bandage, like most other pirates. The other eye, however, was bloodshot. It was bloody red and shone like a ruby, and the stink of rancid corpse was unmistakable. It vaguely reminded me of that of a rabbit, but the difference was that this eye stayed still. Lifeless. Purposeless.

A hand touched my shoulder...

This newsletter offers an opportunity for English learners around the world to share their thoughts and experiences and get some writing practice in the process. In many areas of life, most people would readily agree that quality is more important than quantity. This is no less true when it comes to writing. To get to the point where you can produce quality writing on a consistent basis, however, you may have to get into the habit of writing regularly knowing that much of what you produce might win no prizes for excellence. As you keep on writing and thinking, however, who knows what hidden gems might emerge? *Writing Showcase* is published on a bimonthly basis (every two months). If you are interested in contributing to it, please contact the editor, Everett Ofori.



**Everett Ofori, MBA**  
**(Heriot Watt University)**

**Takarazuka University of Art and Design, Tokyo Campus Building 1F,  
 123MBE, 7-11-1 Nishi Shinjuku,  
 Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan 160-0023**

<b>WRITING SHOWCASE PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 2014</b>		
<b>2014 Volume 6</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>
Issue number #1	January 15	December 31, 2013
#2	March 15	February 28, 2014
#3	May 15	April 30, 2014
#4	July 15	June 30, 2014
#5	September 15	August 31, 2014
#6	November 15	October 31, 2014

\* Maximum number of words = 300 (exceptions occasionally made)