

Definition of a devotion

Lengths of devotions

Usual _____

Exceptions _____

Focused writing

To write devotions, learn to use few words to convey an image that illustrates a message. One key to writing devotions is to use simple words and a single focus to form a beautiful picture that appeals to the senses while conveying insightful thoughts.

Developing the devotion

To prepare an apple, a seed is planted and cultivated. The tree grows, and the beautiful ripe apple is chosen and picked. When a devotional idea comes to mind, plant it in your heart. Cultivate it with prayer then carefully choose the best words to use. Reflect on the one point you want readers to remember and build your devotion around that basic theme or the apple.

Strengths and weaknesses

Audiences

Young children	Young readers
Tweens	Teens
Women	Men
Hobby-ests	Military
Families	

Topics

Anything goes if it is done well and shows how to live out a biblical truth through a timely and well related illustration.

Elements of a devotion (3elements, 4 elements, or the Idea method)

The application or take-away
Types

Purpose

Challenges/calls to action

Editing

Devotion's Strengths

- Title matches focus
- Title grabs attention
- Fresh, creative approach with strong lead
- Presents an eternal truth
- Universal theme for reader identification
- Evokes an emotion
- Contains humor
- Insightful application/ take-away
- Focuses on a single idea
- Creates a word-image
- Appeals to one or more senses
 - sight hearing taste touch smell
- Good read-aloud-ability
- Appropriate for specific audience
- Bible verse, or quote, matches the message
- Closes with a bang/ah-hah moment

Shortcomings

- Title vague or plain
- Overused or trite theme (or urban legends)
- Not well-focused
- No sensory appeal
- Poor transitions
- Lacks flow
- Passive, inactive verbs
- Too wordy, needs tightening
- Clichés
- No specific reader benefit/ take-away
- First person that makes you and not God the star
- Christian jargon (sounds preachy and many new Christians don't understand)

Takeaway ideas

- Attitude changes
- A challenge to give yourself
- A change you can make
- Accepting what you cannot change with a good attitude or choice
- A need you can meet
- A step toward resolving a conflict or strengthening a relationship
- A thought to reflect on that will lift your spirits
- An example to follow
- A step toward forgiving someone
- An idea or action to pursue
- The truth you will remember that you learned
- A specific prayer you will say
- A principle you will apply
- A promise to trust
- A passage you will read and ponder
- How God is calling you to respond to topic
- Name the [truth] you are called to face about [situation, person, or topic].
- A scripture you will remember