

Title: The Ultimate Committee Work Triumph

Synopsis:

This blog takes a reverent (and irreverent) look at one of the greatest literary feats in the English language: the King James Bible—written not by one tortured genius in a garret, but by a committee. Yes, a committee. With notes. And arguments. And probably way too many snacks.

The piece explores how this deeply collaborative process somehow produced some of the most emotionally resonant and enduring language in history—despite (or because of?) the infighting, egos, and collective drafting that would normally kill creativity stone dead.

The lesson for writers? Sometimes, embracing the tension of a group effort—or the internal “committee” in your head—can lead to strange, powerful, unforgettable writing.

The Snark’s Blog: [here](#)

Discussion Questions

Use these questions to spark conversation and reflection in the classroom:

- Why is it so surprising that a committee produced something as linguistically beautiful as the King James Bible?
- What does this tell us about the myth of the “solitary genius” writer? Is that myth helpful or harmful?
- The blog mocks committee culture while also praising it. Can both things be true at once?
- What writing projects in your own life might benefit from more voices, more tension, or more perspectives?
- Does the structure and cadence of the King James Bible still influence modern writing—even fiction?
- What kind of internal “committees” do writers hold as they draft, revise, and second-guess their work? How can you use those voices productively?

Writer’s Prompts

Creative exercises to help students apply the themes of the topic:

- **Prompt 1:** The Internal Committee: Write a scene from your novel—but first, list the voices in your head trying to “help” you write it (e.g., The Academic, The Marketing Expert, The Inner Critic, The Third-Grade Teacher Who Told You You Had No Talent). Then write the scene as they argue.
- **Prompt 2:** Holy Collaboration: Create a story fragment “translated” by three wildly different fictional writers (e.g., a poet, a bureaucrat, a medieval monk with anger issues). Let their voices collide.

- **Prompt 3:** The Worst Committee Ever: Write a short story where a group of people is tasked with producing something important—only to fall into chaos. Then... somehow... it turns out beautiful anyway.
- **Prompt 4:** The First Sentence That Must Last Forever: Invent a “sacred text” for a fictional world, focusing on one perfectly constructed sentence at its heart. How many drafts did the writers argue over to get it just right?
- **Prompt 5:** Fictional Gospel: Retell a myth, moment of history, or family story in the tone of the King James Bible. Go full epic. “And lo, she did text him, yea, at 2 a.m., and her thumbs were swift.”
- **Prompt 6:** Group Drafting Madness: Pick a single paragraph from your work-in-progress. Rewrite it three different ways: once for clarity, once for beauty, once for impact. Then stitch them together.
- **Prompt 7:** Petty Saints and Sacred Drama: Write a scene where two scribes or writers argue bitterly over how to phrase a single line in a sacred or historic text. It’s absurd—but the stakes feel life-or-death.

Class Activities

These activities will help expand on the themes of the blog:

- **Group Discussion:** Discuss what modern books or films could only have been written by a team (or survived despite being workshopped to death). What can we learn from that tension?
- **Design Exercise:** Create your own “Sacred Style Guide”—a one-page document for how your writing group would approach tone, voice, structure... if you were trying to write something that would last 500 years.
- **Debate:** “Resolved: No great book was ever written by a committee.” (Get ready for some passionate perspectives.)
- **Collaborative Alien Story-Building:** Design a fictional alien culture where everything—from personal letters to bedtime stories—is written by group consensus. What beauty and disaster comes from that?
- **Live Rewrite Challenge:** Take a famous sentence (“Call me Ishmael,” for example) and pass it around a group for rewrites. Every person must make one change. What emerges by the end?

Closing note from the blog’s writer, The Snark

Let’s be honest: “written by committee” usually means bland, safe, and emotionally void. But somehow, the King James Bible is none of those things. It sings. It stabs. It whispers in the dark.

And it reminds us that writing isn't just a lonely genius with a notebook—it's voices arguing, harmonizing, translating, shouting across time. Sometimes, your internal chaos? That is the sacred process.

So whether your writing committee includes a snarky inner narrator, a few ghostly literary giants, or just your cat judging you silently from across the room—invite them in. Listen to the conflict.

Because somewhere between "let's use stronger verbs" and "for thou art dust," you just might create something that echoes.

Now get writing. Or gather your inner committee and bicker for an hour. Same difference.