

# Rod Serling on Writing

Part 1 of a 16-part series featuring the master storyteller on video.

[Scott Myers](#)



Ever since I launched Go Into The Story, I have regularly gone down the Internet's rabbit hole in search of unique video clips featuring renowned writers. In 2010, I hit the Mother Lode: A series of 16 clips featuring Rod Serling chatting with what appear to be college students circa 1970.

Most well-known for the long-running TV anthology series [“The Twilight Zone”](#) (148 episodes, 1959–1964), Serling has over 70 writing credits including the screenplays for movies such as [Seven Days in May](#) and the original [Planet of the Apes](#).

Back in 2010, I went through each clip and extracted some key quotes from Serling. Then as is often the case with the Internet, the videos disappeared.

However, they have emerged once again, a big hat tip to Doc Kane for surfacing them. As long as they are up, I will reprise the series. Today: Serling ruminates on the question: *Where do ideas come from?*

*“That’s the easiest thing on Earth, to come up with an idea. The second thing is hardest thing on Earth — to put it down (i.e., write it).”*

Evidently, coming up with story ideas was easy for Mr. Serling. For those of the rest of us who struggle with, check out my 10-part series: [How to Generate and Critique Story Ideas](#).

As to the second point — how hard it is to “put it down” — here’s another 10-part series: [How I Write a Script](#).

Tomorrow: More of the interviews with Rod Serling.