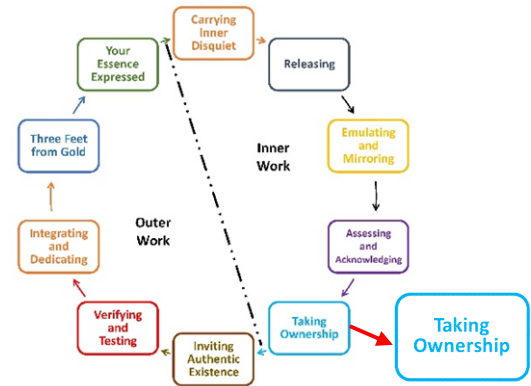


# Taking Ownership

This stage of your quest, the **Taking Ownership** guidepost, builds on the previous one, [Assessing and Acknowledging](#). At Assessing and Acknowledging, your true and unique creative voice was beginning to show up and now you're beginning to claim that. The Taking Ownership guidepost is where the opening grows even wider for your fully authentic self—in your art and in all other aspects of your life—to come forward. Your reliance on teachers and mentors decreases as you develop greater autonomy in your choices about your creative work and what you want your creative life to look like. This guidepost involves greater mastery of your creative work, and increased exploration and well-calculated risk-taking.

Take care to maintain a balance between claiming your truth and your voice and becoming entangled with your ego. Without balance, this guidepost leads to dangerous risk-taking and hubris, potentially resulting in detrimental outcomes and a likely “looping” back or revisiting of other stages. Depending on the situation(s) you are in, you may return to a state of not creating (Carrying Inner Disquiet); there may still be things for you to work through or let go of (Releasing); you may still have more to learn from others (Emulating and Mirroring); or perhaps you didn't honestly judge where you are creatively (Assessing and Acknowledging). But if you've maintained a balance among risk, ego, and claiming your personal values and truths, momentum takes you toward the next guidepost: **Inviting Authentic Existence**.



1. Based on this description of **Taking Ownership** and our discussion about it in [Episode 27](#) of the podcast, have you ever been in, or are you currently in, this stage of the creativity cycle?

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2. What does **Taking Ownership** look like in your life? How do you experience it? How does it show up in both your day-to-day living and in your writing practice?

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**Taking Ownership** is most closely related to the season of **Summer** (tune in to Ep. 28 for more on this relationship).

In a balanced Summer, your creative work becomes shapely and full-bodied. Your visions are coming to fruition, and you are living with integrity and optimism. Bitterness and a tendency to dictate what, when, and how are signs of an imbalanced Summer.

For even more on the season of Summer, listen to [Episode 6](#) of the podcast.

3. What do you believe this stage has to teach you? About yourself? About your writing practice?

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4. Do you feel “stuck” in this stage? If so, what would it take for you to move forward? Or do you already feel ready to move on?

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5. Sometimes we repeat a particular stage or we “loop” back to it because we haven’t yet learned, experienced, or come to believe something that we need from this stage in order to move on.

If you’ve experienced this stage before, why do you think you’ve come back to it again? Did you try something last time (perhaps a new way of thinking or doing) that did or did not help you move on? If it didn’t work, why? If it did work, do you think it might work again? Or do you need to try something else?

You may not have the answers in this moment, but I invite you to journal about your current circumstances related to this stage. Include your external situation (think people, places, things in your life), as well as your inner landscape (your emotions—good and bad; your beliefs; your values). Be open to the possibility that allowing yourself to explore all aspects of your life as it is now will uncover what you need to do or think next to move forward.

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Creativity, the writing mindset, and this journey are not linear. But, for simplicity, we are exploring them as a 10-stage cycle or quest. Be sure to tune into the [Around the Writer’s Table](#) podcast for our discussions about each stage/guidepost. Next: **Inviting Authentic Existence.**

