# Adobe After Effects Lesson: Self writing text or Revealing a vector image

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Use this technique to make it appear like text is being written in front of you; or a vector image is being drawn in front of you. Use the text tool or use an Adobe Illustrator file for a vector image.

**File > New** and go to the menu and select **Composition > New Composition**

Using the text tool, type a word using a script like font like **Brush Script**

Click on the **Pen tool** to create a path that covers the set of characters or the vector image

**TIP:** Treat this like you are cursive writing the letters. When you cursive write letters, your pen never leaves the page, and you back track over areas that you have written.  Create you path in this way.

Go to the menu and select **Effects > Generate > Stroke**; or in the **Effects and Presets** window, type in **"stroke"** and double click on **Stroke**

In the **Effects Control** window, or in the **Composition** you will see the word **Stroke**. Click on **Stroke** to expand it for more options.

Beside **Brush Size**, click the number (default value: 2.0) and hold. Slide the mouse to the right to increase the size of the path, covering the letters.

**TIP:** If you have trouble seeing the path you can change the colour of the Stroke. Beside **Color**, click on the square box and select a different colour. You may also change the colour of the path. Go to the composition and click on **Mask** drop down menu. In front of **Mask 1** you will see a colour box (default: yellow). Click on it to change the colour.

Make any adjustments to the path so that the all the letters are completely covered.

Beside the parameter **Paint Style**, click on the drop down menu and select **Reveal Original Image**

Keyframe **End** from  0% to 100%
> Go to the parameter, **End**, and add a keyframe (by clicking  on the hour glass) and change the value to 0% . Go down the timeline and add another keyframe and change the value to 100%

Scrub the timeline and it should look like the letter is being written in front of you.