



## **Sit Down and Write that Bestselling Novel!**

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### Writing a Book from Scratch

Your book's content is vital to your book's success. Readers don't buy books because the front covers entice them. They buy books for knowledge or entertainment. They seek to gain a new experience or add value to their lives. Writers believe the hardest part of writing a book is writing from scratch.

How should you conceptualize your ideas? What's your story's angle and its focal point? You need to make many decisions to write a book that readers find worth reading! Here are some fast tips to write a book from scratch... .

Tip 1: Write a brief book.

Build your confidence as a writer with a mini-masterpiece. Call it a trial and error method. Test your skills as a book author. Make your ideas poignant and your punch lines catchy.

Tip 2: Have a single topic.

To avoid confusion, concentrate on one topic. Organize your thoughts that support your book's main idea.

Tip 3. What is your book's purpose?

Why are you writing it? Who will benefit from it? You write a book so that others will read it. Think about your readers and what they want.

Tip 4. Hire the services of a book coach or professional editor.

Let friends and family critic your masterpiece; then incorporate their ideas into your book. This is one way of soliciting responses and reactions from first-hand readers before you publish your book.

Tip 5. Appeal to your readers' sentiments, emotions, and beliefs.

Self-help and inspirational books are common. People who are too ashamed to consult professionals turn to self-help books to answer their problems.

Writing a book from scratch is never a daunting task if you know where to start and how to do it.

### Inspire Yourself to Write A Book

Most writers agree that writing a book requires inspiration — and lots of it! Having the right insight and ideas can help you paint that perfect picture of words that will touch your readers.

Many writers deal with writer's block at some point during their writing. In fact, finding inspiration is an obstacle that most writers encounter.

You can find inspiration everywhere around you. If you learn how to inspire yourself, you will find it easier to write your book and avoid writer's block.

TIP 1: Use Your Personal Experience

One common trend among many famous authors, which can be useful to you, is how their personal lives influence their work. The human experience has been a classic source of fascination and inspiration. Writing about your own experiences gives you material that you truly know best.

How do daily events affect you as a person? Maybe you learned something new, or met somebody new who influenced you. Maybe a life-altering event affected you in some way. If you experienced something unforgettable, then this experience may appeal to other people as well.

Dig deep into your personal history. Think about significant childhood memories that have influenced you in your life. Recall instances where you have experienced extreme emotions like joy, sorrow or anger. These emotions can help you focus on writing about human emotions and help you formulate well-rounded characters in your writing.

#### Tip 2: Using The Viewpoint Of Others

Another common source of inspiration is through a second person point of view. Many times, the lives and conversations of other people can inspire you and your story. Pay attention to the people around you. Notice their behavior and listen to their conversations.

Instilling something you have learned from someone else's point of view can benefit your writing. You may never know when you will bump into an intellectual person who might influence your thinking with different opinions and philosophies. Keep a writing notebook or journal and jot down ideas you get from other people; then you can return to your journal for sources of inspiration and creativity.

Noticing peoples' quirky personalities can help influence your ideas and shape your characters. This can help you write a story with interesting characters, plots, and storylines that readers can relate to.

#### Tip 3: Adapt Stories That Capture Your Interest

The news, different cultures, myths and even fairy tales are examples of stories that may trigger your imagination. These stories can be great sources of inspiration to build your work around.

A popular trend among fiction writers is adapting myths and fairytales into a contemporary setting, so their stories become relatable to the modern world. If you are trying to write fiction, then adding a twist on the original story can make it original and interesting for your readers.

You can inspire and influence your thinking by reading different things, and use it to help create your own masterpiece. This is called creating Art from Art. Many brilliant writers use this technique to develop their work. You may never know when you will stumble upon something in the newspaper or on the Internet that triggers your interest.

You can tap into many different ways to inspire yourself. Ideas for inspiration are floating everywhere around you at this moment. Sometimes, even the simplest things like nature, an unusual life experience, an accidentally overheard conversation, or even a favorite childhood fairytale can inspire you.

If you experience writer's block, just remember to clear your mind. Take time to relax. Be open to anything that may create that special spark in your mind. You may never know when that next big idea might hit you.

## Research 101 - Where To Go And How To Research

Research is time-consuming and hard work; however, this phase in writing is essential to write a book that readers will find believable and original. As long as you know where to start and what you want to achieve with your work, then research shouldn't be a problem. Here are a few basic steps to do research for your book.

### Tip 1: Identify Your Topic And Develop It

The first step is to identify your topic. Decide what goals you want to derive from writing about it. Develop your topic by stating it as a question. For example, if your book topic is about love, then identify questions on what particular aspects about love you want to cover. This way, you begin to develop an outline about what you want to cover as well as a clear flow on how you want your story to go. This is a very good step to help you organize your thoughts.

## Tip 2: Find Basic Background Information

Establish basic information about your topic. Search for keywords and do preliminary readings in encyclopedias and dictionaries that help you know what your topic is about. Concentrate on general information as the very basics, so that later on, you can search for other related information to flesh out your book topic.

## Tip 3: Conduct Research on Current Studies

After you have educated yourself about your book's topic, you can expand to specific details about your book's theme. This may include exhausting many types of sources including informative published articles and even current or up to date studies that may present you with statistics and the latest findings.

Make sure you exhaust all your sources to know as much as you can about your topic. Use the Internet or popular magazines to know more about how your book's topic affects popular culture. This may even include asking people for their opinions on the issues that you are trying to cover in your book. Outside opinions can give you many ideas and insights that may prove useful to your work.

Conduct extensive research according to questions you had developed in the preliminary stages of your research. Always go back to the root issue, and do not deviate too much from the topic.

You probably won't use all information from your research as sources for your book; however, you can still use many types of information to give you ideas on what to write.

## Tip 4: Evaluate Your Information

Before you close your research, evaluate the things you have discovered about your topic. Make sure you synthesize and separate what pieces of information is useful for your book and decide which information is too trivial.

Classify your information and where your sources came from. Although you may get ideas from magazines and newspapers, they aren't usually used for academic purposes. Use Internet information sparingly as this can make your book look superficial and research-deprived.

Identify and include facts and information that are most vivid and can help you write convincingly on your book's topic. If you need to copy an idea from another published writer, don't forget to give credit and cite sources.

These simple tips can guide you in your research. Collecting facts and bits of information is essential to write a book that speaks boldly and convincingly to your readers.

## The Basic Rules of Book Writing

You need to follow many style rules to write your book. Some rules may apply to every word, while other rules may apply to its general composition. Either way, you should follow these rules as you work on your book. Your goal is to capture your audience's attention and strengthen the message you want to get across to your readers. Here are a few examples of these basic writing rules.

### Tip 1: Use An Active Voice

When writing — especially non-fiction — make sure you use an active voice as often as possible. Writing in active voice simply means the subject is performing the verb. This is much more preferable for most instances as compared to a passive voice. A passive voice makes readers think backwards and could leave them wondering who exactly is the doer of the action.

Writing in active voice shortens your sentences and makes your writing sound more direct and formal.

### Examples:

**PASSIVE:** The recipe book is read by her.

**ACTIVE:** She reads the recipe book.

**PASSIVE:** The radio announcement should be listened to by everyone.

**ACTIVE:** Everyone should listen to the radio announcement.

**PASSIVE:** The photo is being taken by the photographer.

**ACTIVE:** The photographer is taking the photo.

By using an active voice for most parts of your book, you can avoid dragging the story, which could bore your readers. For example, instead of saying, "The ball was hit by Roy," it would be better to say, "Roy hit the ball."

### Tip 2: Use Concrete Words Instead of Vague Language

Always use specific and concrete words rather than vague and general words. Instead of saying "apparent considerable monetary gains," you can easily say "a lot of money" or "one million dollars." Not only are you saving yourself effort by writing this way, but you are also making it easier for your readers to understand your point immediately. Using vague descriptions can lose your readers' interests.

### Tip 3: Always Properly Cite Your Sources

When using passages from the works of other authors, please remember to properly cite them in your book. Try to paraphrase, instead of directly quoting from your original sources. Paraphrasing in your own words makes you more ethical by not plagiarizing, but also proves to your readers that you've done your research, thus making you sound more convincing and credible as an author.

### Tip 4: Remember Your Subject-Verb Agreement

Always remember to make your subject and verb agree with each other, and not with a word that comes in between them. If your subject is singular, then make sure the verb in your sentence is also singular. For example, it is correct to say, "Janice, like her brothers, has been going to school there," instead of "Janice, like her brothers, have been going to school there."

### Tip 5: Omit Unnecessary Words

In this example: "I would like to exclaim that I truly consider her as quite an incomprehensible idiot," we can see I've include too many unnecessary words. Unnecessary words tire the reader and makes the sentence more difficult to comprehend. By saying, "I think she is an idiot," you make your readers understand what your mean instead of making things complicated.

### Tip 6: Properly Arrange Where You Place Pronouns or Appositives

Arrange the pronoun or appositives properly in your sentences and make sure they refer to the right subject. For example, instead of saying, "*Its mouth filled with dog food, Lorena picked up the puppy from the basket,*" you should say, "*Lorena picked up the puppy, its mouth filled with dog food, from the basket.*" You will not confuse your readers about who your subject is with the descriptions.

These rules are just some of the most basic. Many writers still forget these rules. Since your goal is to write a book your readers can understand and comprehend, stick to these basic rules to write correctly.

## Writing a Fantasy Book

Fantasy novels are the most exciting stories to write. Writing fantasy gives the author so much freedom about every character and event of the story. Fantasy stories allow authors to play with their imagination to the fullest. Writing fantasy is like playing God. Every element is under your

control. You dictate the setting, the scenario and the characters' traits and skills.

To excel in writing fantasy, you must create a story close to life. Yes, it is fictional and fantastical, but still — readers might criticize you if your story is pure invention without basis of history, science and common sense. Readers are smart and intelligent. They may readily throw a book in the fire if they think your story is stupid. And believe me, they know one when they see it. As a fantasy book author, you should be prepared to do your assignment like a good student.

Tip 1: Know your main character, or main characters.

Know your characters thoroughly because the whole story will evolve around them; all sub-stories will have relation to them and their quest. Build your characters completely well. To achieve this, you can write a biography of your characters on separate sheets of paper that will guide you in writing the story. This will ensure you don't go astray from their personalities. Your characters should act and make decisions in accordance to each of their personality traits and life history. A smart reader will notice things that are done out of character. So be careful with that.

Tip 2. Arrange your history clearly.

Properly construct your story's chain of events. Create a separate record of events so you don't mix up your events. Create a timeline to avoid overlapping of occurrences. Make sure each of your character's age progresses with the chronology of events. Draw a family tree of your related characters. In most fantasy novels, the bloodline is a very crucial element.

Tip 3. Know every detail in your fantasy world.

A fantasy world without details is empty. You are the God of this world; you have the power to create and destroy. You have the authority to create the rules. Even though your fantasy world is entirely made-up, you still need to make it believable and logical. Do your research.

Writing A Children's Book

You are a very good bedtime storyteller and want to take it to another level by writing a children's book. You think it's that easy? Well, think again.

If you think it's easy to write children's books because they are short with large fonts and many pictures, you thought wrong. To write for a child, you have to think like a child. Most adult authors have trouble relating to what children want to read and learn these days.

Writing children's books have many restrictions. Vocabulary is limited. You need to use simple language to create a fascinating story. Yes, pictures help but you still have to deliver a great story. Children, 6 to 12, have varying preferences in reading materials. As the author, you need to target one age group per book or story, otherwise you risk alienating your readers.

For example, beginners, ages 5 to 6, are interested in easy reading and more picture; ages 7 to 8, want scary but simple stories; and 9 to 12 want fantasy, like *Harry Potter*, *Series of Unfortunate Events*, and so on.

Before writing a children's book, consider the age of your target audience. Kids do not have long attention spans. They get bored easily. To help you decide what to write and how to write it, read different children's books. Spend some time in a bookstore reading and absorbing different styles of authors. Read everything from the good, to the not so good, to the bad. This way, you will learn what to do and what not to do. You can also ask the opinions of experts. You can have a writer's group or a college professor review your work. Even better, you can have grade school children read your work and ask them what they think. After all, they are your target audience and their opinions matter most.

## The Plot and Characters

In writing a memoir or non-fiction, many writers commit common mistakes as they build their stories. Achieving the right balance between developing strong characters and a believable plot is sometimes difficult. A story has three fundamental elements that you need to work on to

make your story interesting; the three elements are: 1) characters' emotional development; 2) dramatic action; and 3) the thematic significance (the overall story meaning). If you emphasize one more over the other, then you could overdevelop your story or under develop the plot and make it boring.

#### The Beginning

Use the beginning of the story to establish elements like the setting, the mystery, and the love interest if there is one.

The beginning is where you introduce your character and give a preview of his or her emotional development throughout the story. During this time, begin to introduce the protagonist's loves and hates, dreams and aspirations, as well as strengths and weaknesses. Your readers will begin to relate to your protagonist and feel an emotional connection to your character in later chapters.

The "dramatic action" is another important element that you must establish in earlier chapters. As a writer, you must create a central desire to entice readers to look for answers as they work through the story with your character. The end, of course, will determine the answers to your character's desires.

#### The Middle

In the middle part, you must further develop the plot and develop your characters' emotions. The middle is where the protagonist faces adversity, brought about by an antagonist, in order to reveal characters' traits, personalities, desires, and emotions.

You may write a story with different types of antagonists. These may include other people, nature, society, a certain belief system, and even the protagonist's own self. An antagonist is responsible to create conflict in the story. Your story's hero will have to react to and try and resolve the tension.

During this part of the story, it is important for your readers to feel the suspense and drama. While conflict places your main character under pressure, this paves way for your plot to introduce morals and thematic significance in your story. Through your main characters way of acting towards tension, they will set an example on how each action will have an equal reaction.

#### The End

The last part of the story is your chance to resolve all conflicts and to show your readers the consequences of everything that has conspired within your plot. Your characters must show a clear change and emotional development, especially on your protagonist. After all, this is

where you show how adversities have transformed your characters that they had faced in the middle chapters.

During this part, you must answer the "dramatic action." A resolution — to all events and mysteries that have unfolded in your story — must fulfill the central desire from the story's beginning. Your story must present a clear thematic significance to teach readers certain morals.

You decide if you want to leave your readers hanging so they can create their own ending, or you can paint a perfect resolution for them. Whatever you choose, remember to leave your readers with a sense of fulfillment in the end. Your readers should also learn something from your chosen theme.

The basic key to have your readers relate to your plot, story and characters is to strike that balance between the elements. Make sure you balance the growth of your characters as well as the action in your plot. Make sure the dramatic action transforms your characters as your story progresses.

Keep your story flowing. Emphasize the three major elements: the characters' emotional development, the dramatic action, and the thematic significance. Doing so will keep your readers interested in your book.

## Writing Fiction Versus Non-Fiction

Fiction and non-fiction have been compared tirelessly throughout the years. Because each genre has its own pros and cons, people often debate about which writing style is easier or more practical. Let's examine some differences, and then find out how they differ and what similarities hold true to both.

### How Does One Write About Fiction?

Fiction writing tries to reach an audience that has a knack for seeking entertainment. These readers want to feed their imagination. They want the story to transport their imaginations to different places and periods. A fiction writer should have a very big imagination and be very creative.

A fiction writer should have some basic requirements to write a good story; these basics include developing: 1) a solid and interesting plot; 2) strong, relatable characters; and 3) a great writing style with a flair of creativity. Develop these elements fully. Concentrate on answering the "whys" behind the events in your story.

Most readers of fiction stories want to escape their realities and challenge their brains. This is why including mysteries, conflicts and

suspense in your fiction is vital to entertain your readers. These elements keep your readers enticed and glued to your story's plot.

Most writers love writing fiction because the genre does not have strict boundaries; fiction writers have more freedom and control over what they create, without readers arguing what is factual or not. Typically, research does not play an important role in developing fiction books; what matters most is using your imagination and creativity.

#### How Does One Write About Non-Fiction?

Writing about non-fiction may not be as easy as fiction writing. After all, non-fiction writers — unlike their counterparts — thrive off what is real instead of finding entertainment through the imagination.

Non-fiction writers concentrate more on things that we can see and touch. Actual experiences play a major role on the story's quality. Readers look for vivid descriptions about events and historical references to interest them.

Non-fiction writing requires extensive research. You can't fake research in non-fiction writing. Filling in spaces with fictional events is rarely tolerated. In fact, many controversies in the publishing world have sprung up about false research or fabricated stories, especially in memoirs. As the author, you must include exact historical and factual information.

#### Which Style Is Better To Use?

Fiction writing and non-fiction writing have many differences and require different specialties and talents. Many writers may feel confused on which writing style they want to adopt as their own.

Most writers say that sticking with one form of writing is inadequate to earn a living as a freelance author. If you want to become known and successful as a writer, then embrace both writing styles because many different demands may come your way.

Each style has its pros and cons that may render them equal to each other. Although writing about fiction usually does not require a lot of research, not every writer can transform his imagination and make-believe-world to paper. Writers will still face obstacles in non-fiction writing during the creative process. On the other hand, doing research for fiction can be quite draining, but at least you have freedom to create a storyline instead of real events dictating the storyline for you.

These two writing styles may look different, and they have their own advantages and disadvantages. Being versatile in both styles can do a lot to establish your credibility and creativity as an author.

Neither style is superior or inferior from the other. Both genres capture the intelligence and interest of many writers. You can't go wrong with either writing style.

## 7 Tips to Write Great Fiction

It feels great to read a good fiction novel. But do you know how a good author creates a good fiction novel? Do you know how an author develops a plot that keeps you reading from cover to cover? If you are a writer who wants readers to finish your book in one sitting, apply some of these tips to write great fiction.

1. Fiction writing requires you to write original plots. Don't lift a storyline from some other book. Make your storyline unpredictable in every part of your fiction novel.

2. Begin your story with a rough story outline. Even if the story exists only in your head, you need to chronicle your story's events. Begin by writing down one sentence describing the opening scene. Next, write another sentence that describes the last scene of your book. A big space in between serves as the space to create major plot points from beginning to end. These sentences will guide you as you write your fiction novel.

3. You must have the story's characters in mind by now. You must know these characters inside out, as if they are alive and you personally know them. You must know each one's strengths and weaknesses.

4. Know the weaknesses of your character and attack them using the plot. Your story should bring your characters together to fight between two strong emotions in some type of emotional struggle.

5. Great fiction writers are great storytellers. If you are a talented storyteller, start with a storyline that comes from your own experience. More story ideas will come from research. You must have a detailed eye for important facts during research. You could always use these for your plot and sub-plots.

6. Use the active voice when telling the story. Active voice helps readers relate themselves to your characters and they feel part of your story. Use short and concrete words for impact.

7. Practice your typing skills. If you are a good typist, it is easier to put your thoughts in written form. Sometimes, ideas bombard you by slow typing. Type fast, and get your thoughts and ideas to paper faster.

These important tips can help you write better fictional stories. Keep going at it. As you get better at the craft, it will become easier to create new plots and characters.

### Non-fiction Book Writing Tips

Non-fiction topics such as history, biographies, how-to books, and self-help books can be a big bore to readers. The overload of data, facts or information bores and turns off some readers. Some people have a hard time focusing on reading pure facts — they tend to forget what they have just read if it is written in plain and straightforward dry English.

If your aim is to write a best-selling non-fiction book, you have to turn boring and straightforward facts into fun and interesting facts. Otherwise, you might as well just write a textbook. (Textbooks only sell because schools require them, otherwise, they would rot on bookstores' shelves.)

After you decide what to write about, you need to know how to make your information interesting to readers. Remember, nothing beats human interest to capture an audience. Inject human interest into your otherwise boring how-to manual or non-fiction book.

For example, let's say you are writing about how to build a dog house. Instead of plainly telling readers step by step the how-to's, insert some anecdotes or possible incidents the reader might experience while doing the task. You should always capitalize on human feelings. Appealing to the emotions always works.

In writing non-fiction, it is always best to show readers what is happening than tell them what is happening. By showing, I mean leading readers into the scene and making them feel they are seeing or witnessing the event firsthand. Instead of enumerating facts or stating numbers, describe it in a way the average person can relate to.

Not everybody knows his or her metric system, and not everybody has a vivid image of how long 10 meters is. In cases like these, you can make use of your stock idiomatic expressions and metaphors. You can liken the length to something the readers see in their everyday lives.

Instead of stating that the wood is two inches thick, you can say it is as thick as their Harry Potter book 7. These allusions give readers a vivid image in their mind.

If you learn these simple techniques, you can write your non-fiction book in a fun and interesting manner and not bore your readers to death.

### The Principles of Editing

Book editing can be a grueling process. If you are not used to critiquing your own work, then you may pass over errors without realizing it. Editing is important to produce quality work. Learning the basic principles on how to organize and condense your manuscript can save your book's reputation — not to mention your own.

#### Tip 1: Be Concise as Much as Possible

A common mistake is including unnecessary content in your book without realizing it. When editing your work, make sure you eliminate clutter.

Clutter may appear in your work through useless and repetitive words in the same sentences. For example, this sentence, "The hasty brisk way that she talks," leaves the impression that the extra descriptive words add drama, but the words "hasty" and "brisk" mean the same thing.

#### Tip 2: Vary Sentence Structure

Your readers might find your writing style dull and choppy if you always write your sentences with the main subject followed by the verb. This brings us to the second principle: learn to vary the structure of your sentences.

For example, saying, "Because I ate too much, I gained a lot of weight," sounds better than saying, "I ate too much. I gained a lot of weight." The first phrase not only sounds better and less monotonous, but it is also easier to understand.

By varying the length and structure of your sentences, you can achieve a smoother and more conversational tone, instead of sounding like a robot. Thus, your readers can relate to your book more and understand it better.

#### Tip 3: Use Active Voice

By replacing "to be" verbs with active verbs, you can change your statement from a passive voice into an active voice. For example, it's better to write, "Anna ate the apple, " rather than "The apple was eaten by Anna." You avoid confusing your readers on who the "doer" of the action is in your statements.

Using active voice is an important editing principle. Active voice holds your readers' interests; unlike passive voice of writing, active voice does not drag out your point.

#### Tip 4: Clarity, Cohesion and Coherence

The three C's in writing, otherwise known as clarity, cohesion and coherence, are useful editing techniques. For your book to truly speak to readers, you must evoke a response so your readers connect with what you are trying to say. Use clear, connected and coherent words to achieve this result.

For your work to become clear, avoid using too much jargon or unnecessary words. As mentioned previously, keep your book concise and simple so readers understand your point better.

Make sure sentences and paragraphs clearly stick together. One trick is to use transitional words and phrases like, therefore, or, and so. These can show the relationship between your phrases and drive your point across.

To achieve coherence, follow basic principles of writing and editing as the ones mentioned above. Sometimes it's not your fault if readers don't fully understand your work. However, you can make things easier by using correct grammar and cohesive sentences.

Editing is essential to improve the quality of your work. If you are not used to finding errors on your own, then you may find self-editing too taxing. As long as you use these basic principles, then you will see how this process improves your writing style in many ways.

Copyright Information for Authors

Issues on copyright are hot topics in the creative world. From movies, to music, and authorship, people have been disputing the legal concept of copyright.

If you are an aspiring writer, then educating yourself about copyright protection will help you to avoid creative legalities in the future. Aside from this, claiming copyright for your originally-created book will benefit you in many ways, not only as an artist but also as the creator.

#### Tip 1: What Is Copyright?

A copyright is a legal concept, afforded by most government laws, that grants the creator exclusive rights to his or her own work, such as ownership and distribution, making derivatives of the work, public performance and public display. It also grants the creator, or whoever holds the copyright, the privilege for others to credit your work if they use any part of it.

Copyright protection ensures the copyright holder gets paid royalties from use of his copyrighted creations. Because it is a form of intellectual property, a copyrighted item cannot be directly imitated or claimed from the holder without proper negotiations.

Copyright laws dictate that the author becomes the copyright owner, unless he or she sells or transfers the rights. Also, in some cases, the copyright may belong to the employer of the person who created the work, especially when the particular piece was made for hire.

Some examples of copyrightable work include literature, music, films and many forms of art. All of these arts are usually original and the results of significant labor, creativity and even financial investment. Protecting them from incorrect exploitation from other people is justifiable.

#### Tip 2: How Can I Violate Copyright Laws?

Writers who use the work of others to gain ideas and inspiration is common. However, when one copies an original piece and distributes it as his own, then this is a different issue. This act of copying, displaying, distributing or creating a plagiarized version of a copyrighted piece is called copyright infringement.

Copyright infringement can be a serious offense, especially if a copyright holder sues for violations to misuse of his works. Penalties for this crime can include a fine of \$100,000 in the U.S. However; copyright infringement has certain exceptions, such as The Fair Use Act, which allows someone to use a copyrighted work without compensation for educational purposes.

#### Tip 3: How Can I Make The Copyright Law Work For Me?

The copyright law does not exist to condemn those who plagiarize. In fact, it exists primarily to protect creators' works of creativity and to encourage people to produce more advancement in society, culture and the arts.

Owning a copyright allows you to earn more money from your creation. As an author, this can protect your right to distribute your own book without having to worry that fake and cheaper copies of your work will circulate in the market — if this happens, you would obviously lose money.

Owning a copyright protects the dignity of your work because it prevents people from exploiting it without your consent. Copyright gives you control over your work. After all, you worked hard to create your book, and it would be a shame if people just copied it, claimed it as their own, or used it without properly asking for permission — and perhaps using it in ways with which you do not approve.

Remember that copyrighted works are usually the result of creativity, originality, hard work and financial investment; without protection, people may find it easy to exploit your material without compensation. You can learn everything about copyrights and how to protect your book at <http://www.ResearchCopyright.com>

## Do I Need a Literary Agent?

Writing is a fruitful and fulfilling endeavor. The downside is you may find it difficult to get your book published. The process of convincing publishers to publish your book as well as negotiating on how to market your book may burden you with too much responsibility. The literary agent serves as an important role to combat these obstacles, especially if you do not want to waste your creative efforts dealing with the business side of book publishing.

### Tip 1: What Is A Literary Agent?

A literary agent represents writers and their written works to publishers, producers and other companies. Basically, these agents assist you in selling your book and negotiating contracts. In most cases, you do not pay the literary agent directly, because they receive a percentage of your book royalties.

Literary agents act as buffers between you and your publisher, especially negotiating how each party should package or market your book. As a writer, you do not want the publisher to butcher and change your

original work too much; however, publishers do insist on changing your work to improve its salability in the marketplace. Having an agent to help settle things can make things much easier for everyone.

#### Tip 2: Why Should I Get a Literary Agent?

Many book writers want to concentrate on writing their books and use a literary agent to handle the business of book publishing. In this case it makes sense to hire an experienced agent to sell your book to a publisher and negotiate royalties. Secondly, a literary agent will have connections in the industry that you do not, and this could speed up the publishing process.

An agent is responsible to shop your manuscript around to publishers and use his connections to get your work in the hands of a good editor. Your literary agent will handle most of the contracts, agreements and negotiations on your behalf. You may also decide to work with a literary agent to express and brainstorm ideas and opinions about your book and what you want to achieve.

Use a literary agent to assist you in earning optimal money from your work, and at the same time, provide you with creative protection. A literary agent will help fight for your artistic decisions and ensure publishers don't compromise your original concept.

#### Tip 3: What Should I Know Before Getting A Literary Agent?

As good as it may sound to get a literary agent, do not rush yourself in choosing one. Follow these basic rules:

Know who the good agents are, and research their credentials and accomplishments. Narrow down a few good agents. Request their submission guidelines or ask if they accept unsolicited material. The best approach is to send a book proposal with a sample chapter, a comprehensive synopsis, and a short letter asking them to represent you.

Most literary agents are swamped with manuscripts. Many of them are picky and hard to please. Do not feel frustrated if you experience some difficulty at this stage. Research will uncover many agents; in time, you will find an agent who will believe in your work and help you sell it.

Be wary of scammers who request up front reading fees. Make sure your chosen literary agents are legitimate. If you find agents advertising themselves too much, or advertising "rags-to-riches" offers and promises, then it's likely they may not be the real deal.

As a writer who is determined to get your work published, finding a reputable literary agent is a basic step to achieve your goal. By doing so, you can get your stories across to people and help you make money from your art.

Writing a book is one journey, and the business aspect is another. A good literary agent can help launch your career as a writer and make things a whole lot easier for you. If you want to become successful in your book writing endeavors, it would certainly not hurt you to find a good agent.

### What Does a Literary Agency Agreement Include?

Many aspiring book writers yearn to get a literary agent for representation. Literary agents have become valuable to getting books published. The first step could determine if you can make it or break it.

Before signing an agreement, you may wonder what things you need to consider. Many literary agents may not be legitimate. You should evaluate terms and contents stated in the condition the agency offers you.

#### Duration

The term or duration of your agency agreement is a critical factor. The range of terms varies from thirty days to the whole duration of your work's copyright.

Most authors don't want to be bound to an idle agent for a long time; on the other hand, literary agents are reluctant to sign short-term contracts with book authors. The best arrangement is one that allows any party to use a 30-day termination provision. This serves as a trial period to determine if your professional author-agent relationship can work.

If you have already signed a long-term deal, make sure you retain the right to terminate your agreement if your agent has not helped you sell your book within a certain period of time.

#### Scope

Most agreements grant the literary agent rights to represent your work internationally, in all types of media, and in all formats. All of your existing works during the contract period is covered.

This agreement may not always work for you, so consider negotiating your agent's control to specific projects, especially when you are starting out. If things go smoothly with your agent, you can always adjust and broaden his or her scope of control.

You may want to use a different literary agent to handle subsidiaries like film, audio, and foreign deals. This may be applicable if you feel your agent lacks expertise in a specific market.

#### Commission

Usually, this part of the agreement is non-negotiable. Most agents charge a fifteen percent (15%) commission from your royalties. You can expect an additional five to ten percent (5-10%) for international distribution, as your agent may need to compensate his sub-agents in foreign countries. You should expect to pay as much as a twenty-five percent (25%) fee for a foreign sale.

There are exceptions: if you discover a foreign publisher and you want your agent to negotiate the deal for you. In this case, some agents may lower their usual commission.

#### Disbursements

Since the literary agent will receive royalties and advances from the publisher, make sure your contract includes an agreement that requires your agent to deposit all funds on your behalf into a separate and private account instead of your agent's account. Make sure your contract grants you to receive your regular payment within 10 business days.

#### Expenses and Accounting

Negotiate with your agent as much as possible, especially if you incur any excessive and unusual expenses. Such expenses should not exceed a specific amount without your permission and should not be taken directly from your pocket, but should be deducted from future royalties instead. If your agency agreement absorbs most client expenses as a part of their commission, then this would be a better deal.

Make sure your agent is willing to provide an accounting report along with other IRS documents at least once a year. You need to ensure that cash flow from your royalties is going to all the right places and your agency is not scamming you.

#### Powers and Assignment

Beware of agreements that give your agent different powers that originally only you should have. Such powers may include signing checks and contracts on your behalf. Your contract should also not be transferred to a publisher or agent without your permission.

If you granted your literary agent with too much power, then you should negotiate to decrease them, especially if you have not yet earned trust with your agent.

#### Bankruptcy, Disability, And Death

Check if your contract includes the clause that all your royalties may be transferred directly to you, in the event of bankruptcy, disability or death to your agent. This prevents your royalties from being tied in court due to events that your agency may have experienced.

A literary agent's job is to help you voice your concerns between you and the book publisher. Always review your agency's contract to determine if you have the right representation that supports your best interests.

Some literary agents may scam you with your creative abilities. These people make themselves rich at your expense; the only way they could do this is if you allow them to do so. Be smart in signing any contracts and stay true to upholding the value of your intellectual property.

## What Is a Query Letter?

A query letter is a formal letter sent by a writer to literary agents, editors and publishers. This is a way for writers to propose their book ideas. If you are a writer, aspiring to get your work published, then writing a persuasive query letter is vital for you to achieve your goal. After all, literary agents and publishers greatly base their first impressions of you and your book upon a query letter or book proposal.

The query letter should be a single page and should follow specific guidelines. The ideal format includes single spacing and a twelve-point font size. Your query letter should also consist of four sections in its single page format: the hook, synopsis, the biography and the closing.

### The Hook

The first section or paragraph of your query letter is the hook, which is your whole book compressed into a single sentence. Here, you will briefly introduce the most basic elements, like the character and the dilemma.

Take in mind that this sentence needs to give just the right quantity of information, but of course, not too much. More importantly, it needs to catch the attention of the reader and intrigue the reader to learn more about your book. This part of your query letter will determine if the agent or publisher will continue reading the remainder of your letter.

### The Synopsis

The second part in your query letter — or the synopsis — lets you describe your manuscript in a whole paragraph instead of limiting yourself to one sentence. Here, you can expand more on some things that you have mentioned in the previous section.

You must mention certain aspects of the book such as its genre, word count and your understanding of the market (i.e. who would buy your book?). Show great demand in the market for your book and convince the literary agent or publisher that people are interested in buying and reading your book.

Examining successful books and not-so-successful books can help you explain how your book has potential to sell more copies than competing books in the marketplace.

### The Biography

The third section is the easiest among all sections, because all you have to do is talk about yourself. You do not only have to sell your book, but as a writer, you must also sell yourself.

In this part, mention any awards, achievements, as well as experiences in writing and publishing that you have had. Mention if you have had any works published before and what they are.

Do not hold back on your credentials. If you have an impressive record in writing then make sure you show your editor or agent that you have all the skills and experience in the world. Make sure to fit everything in one paragraph.

If this is your first book, and you do not have fancy awards or accomplishments, you do not have to worry. This means you are left with more space to talk about your book at a deeper level.

### And finally, The Closing

The fourth and final paragraph is the closing paragraph. This is the portion in your query letter that you ask the agent or publisher for permission to send your manuscript. At the same time, you would also

thank the agent or publisher for their time. Also, mention you are looking forward to hearing from them.

Remember to place your contact details — your name, e-mail address, telephone or cell phone numbers- at the end of the paragraph.

This is a very basic and universally accepted format in writing a query letter. If this is your first time writing a query letter, then use this format. Many agents, editors and publishers do not prefer query letters that deviate from the universally accepted format.

The query letter can make or break your writing career — it is about making the right impression. Keep this document simple yet impressive. Stimulate your readers' interest and make them beg for more of what you can offer. Most especially, be yourself in the best possible way you can.

### Writing a Good Book Proposal

Most writers submit a complete manuscript to a publisher and cross their fingers as they wait impatiently for the publisher to reply back with a rejection or acceptance. They hope the publisher likes their manuscript. The reality is most publishers do not like reading complete manuscripts. Yes, you read it right. Publishers receive many manuscripts from aspiring writers and they do not want to waste valuable time reading an entire manuscript only to reject it.

Publishers are sellers. They are only interested in books that sell. They don't want to spend time reading bad book manuscripts. You have to convince the publisher that your book is better than most and it could be a bestseller with their expertise. You can do that by writing a good book proposal.

A book proposal contains the description of your book and its selling points. It is your tool to get your book published. Write a good proposal that says your book is a must-have and a must-read, leaving no doubts to publish your book. Write a book proposal before you write your entire book. This saves you time if the publisher likes your book idea but has some revisions in mind. The writing process may include input from the publisher and editor; after all, they have experience and know what — and what doesn't — sell. Collaborate creatively with your publisher and/or editor and you will produce a better book.

What does a good book proposal look like?

A book proposal has no standard format. Just as you may use different writing styles, you can also write a proposal with a different style than the norm, depending on what information the publisher requests. For a book to sell, you have to custom-make a book proposal for the intended publisher. Adapt a style that matches your publisher's personality and style. The basic requirements of a good book proposal should include the following:

1. The title and the summary, or at least the premise of the book.
2. The distinctive selling point of your book.
3. The manuscript layout or plan.
4. The target market or audience with explanation and descriptions.
5. The author's background and writing experience.
6. Synopsis of every chapter of the book.
7. One or two sample chapters of the book.

You can rearrange this information in any sequence, as long as it convinces your publisher to publish your book.

What is a Publishing Agreement?

A publishing agreement is a document or contract that a writer signs with a publisher before their work can be put into print and distributed in different media. Getting such a contract is probably on every writer's wish list.

Not all clauses in such contracts may work out to your advantage. You cannot rely on your agent to make all decisions, especially if you are placing your own rights at stake. Fully understanding your publishing agreement will ensure you remain in control with your endeavors.

Rights

First, look for what rights belong to you in your contract. Examine the clauses closely instead of skimming through them. If you have any doubts, do not hesitate to consult a lawyer or your agent or publisher.

Standard publishing agreements usually forces the author to assign or license all printing rights to the publisher. Subsidiary rights — such as foreign sales, book clubs, film, audio — are usually included. Except for the rights to printing, you can negotiate all of these rights.

Retain as many secondary rights as possible. After all, you never know when you'll get a better deal from a different publisher for film and foreign sales. If you retain such subsidiary rights, you will gain financially more, of course.

## Royalties

Closely examine the royalties in your contract, especially if you plan to make a living from your writing. Royalties are always a negotiable clause.

The rate of your royalties is a sliding price point and depends if your book is hardcover, paperback, trade paperback, or a combination. The book's genre — nonfiction, fiction or professional textbook — will also determine prices and percentages for royalties.

Understand the implications of the different formulas for pricing (retail price, invoice price or net receipts) so you can understand the proposed royalty rates. If the publisher retains subsidiary rights, all net receipts should be split equally with you, the author.

At this point, don't hesitate to consult an expert if you are confused. Do not rely too much on the publisher's generosity, and always be wise in dealing with the financial aspects of your transactions.

## Compensations and Warranties

These types of clauses in your contract are often legal-heavy. In fact, many authors, agents and editors may not always have a full grasp of what they include in them.

These paragraphs state the respective responsibilities of each party, including what claims they can make against the book, such as defamation, invasion of privacy or copyright infringement.

Aside from the publisher's lawyers, you should appoint your own legal council to peruse the terms and conditions. Have a lawyer carefully examine your contract to ensure full protection.

## Option Clauses

Some clauses in your contract may grant the publisher rights to either make an offer or buy your next book. Do not accept such option clauses. If you cannot remove such an option clause entirely, then negotiate so it doesn't impose a real burden on you.

One way to negotiate such option clauses is to establish a limited period in which the publisher can bid on your next book, and permits you to sell your next book to a different publisher who offers a better deal.

## Revisions and Updated Editions

Clauses on revisions only apply to nonfiction books. Make sure your contract allows you to update your contract if your publisher revises your contract extensively. Also make sure your contract contains a clause that places a cap on how often the publisher requires you to revise your book over a certain period of time.

## Out Of Print Clauses

In the worst-case scenario, your book may not become successful under your current publishing company and they may lose interest. If this happens, your contract grants you the rights to your book, and you can re-publish it with another publisher.

Make sure the contract clearly defines the "out-of-print" terms. Ideally, your book becomes "out-of-print" when the publisher's catalog no longer lists your book, or your publisher withdraws your book from major book chains.

Remember to be smart in dealing with the legal aspects of your publishing agreement. Never hesitate to ask for professional legal help when you need to understand any part of your contract. Your decisions here will determine the success of your writing career as a book author.

### Negotiating A Book Royalty

The hardest part as a book author may not be the writing, nor book marketing or finding a publisher. Negotiating with a publisher also may not be as difficult — if you educate yourself about what is rightfully yours as the creator of the work. The contract could come easy. What is the hardest part? The hardest part is preventing the publisher from taking advantage of you.

Yes, publishers have a nasty reputation of mishandling new authors who lack business-sense skills. Publishers entice unsuspecting authors with a huge advance payment; but typically, they rework other price points (royalties and licensing) to their advantage. The advance payment is just the beginning in the life cycle of your book. The royalty is the real money-generator. It is the most profitable part of the book's sale, especially if your book becomes a bestseller. So how does an author protect himself and his intellectual rights?

Authors should consult experts, such as a literary agent, on negotiating book contracts and royalties. You can also join advocacy organizations that can advise you with firsthand experience on publishing contracts. However, most advocacy organizations only accept published authors. New authors may be out of luck with this option. To safeguard yourself against publishing predators, use a lawyer who will handle the contract and explain every detail to you in plain English.

If you cannot afford a lawyer and you feel confident dealing with the publisher by yourself, then follow this advice about book publishing contracts.

Tip 1: Determine the number of book copies that you and your publisher have agreed upon.

Know how many copies your publisher is going to ship and distribute. This way, you can also keep track of the number of copies that the publisher actually sold and the number of copies that people returned.

Tip 2. Make it clear with your publisher what type of royalty you are agreeing with in the contract.

Is it a regular, foreign export, or a special discount? Because the industry has no standard format for royalty contracts, the royalty could also be "some other type" of royalty, unknown to most authors. Make sure you know and understand the royalty rate, both in percentage and dollar amounts.

Tip 3. Know the details of reserve against returns as clearly stated in dollars.

Make sure you get the details of subsidiary contracts, income and sales. As much as possible, try to know everything you can. Be brave and ask your publisher many questions. After all, it is your creation — so protect it!

## How to Create a Saleable Book Cover

A survey cited by "The Wall Street Journal" says that a person who surfs the bookstore actually spends more time looking at the front book cover before he reads the back cover. Yes, you got it right. You should carefully think about how to design your book cover using recommended design techniques to attract buyers.

Here are some noteworthy book cover creation tips you can use.

### The Front Cover

The front book cover showcases the title, its subtitle, and the author's name. Think of the front cover as a billboard ad displayed on one of the

busiest streets in the city. Its design must express a solid message without being too flashy and fussy. The graphics should be bold, unique, and distinct. Graphics should relate to the book's content and not mislead readers. Use contrasting bold typeface as the lettering. You can use your imagination for the color scheme. The font size must be readable, even from a distance.

Poorly designed book covers will result in poor sales. The best tip is to hire a professional graphic designer who is skilled in printing, photography, software, and creative skills. Now that will truly make sense.

#### The Book Spine

The book's spine must contain the author's name, the book's title, and the publishing company's logo (if applicable). The information must be legible, uncluttered, and visibly clean. Use bold and contrasting colors for the letters.

#### Tease the Back Cover

The back cover gives you a second chance at selling your book to a potential buyer who found your front cover interesting. The back cover should tease the minds of potential buyers and persuade them to buy your book. Go for a terrific headline and advertise it to your target market, provide a brief but persuasive background of the content, include your bio-data and photo, the bar code, and the 13-digit ISBN number.

Ponder these important book cover creation tips and be ready to hit the market with the potential of great sales.

### 6 Simple Book Layout Tips to Remember

A book's layout is almost as important as its content. An effectively designed layout makes it easy for people to read and understand your book. A poorly designed layout can confuse your readers and make them discard your book completely.

#### Layout According to Page Size

Knowing the page size of your book will determine the ideal measurements of your book layout. Because books have standard sizes, expect to adjust your layouts to the page size chosen for your book rather than the other way around.

#### Font Choices

Choose a font size that will make it easy for your readers to read without greatly increasing the printing costs of your books. Secondly, choose the font type that best mirrors the content of your book. Fonts

like Times New Roman or New Courier match cleanly for non-fiction and novels with serious themes; while fonts like Comic Sans MS match better for chick-lit stories or something that's more entertaining rather than informative.

#### Uniformity

Have a format for your book and stick to it. If you began with page numbers in the upper-right hand corner and spelled out chapter numbers rather than using Arabic numerals, make sure you stick to it to the end.

Establish rules beforehand to ensure a uniform layout. Determine when to underline certain words or place them in bold or italics. When outlining ideas, decide if you want to start with uppercase letters, proceeding to Roman numerals and lowercase letters, rather than using bullets.

#### Margins

Margins make your book layout look better. They also make your content easier to read.

#### Spacing

Spacing can conjure a lot of meaning so be careful on how you use spaces between paragraphs and sections in your book.

#### Photos

If you include photos and illustrations, consider how you'd insert them in your layout and align them with your text. How would you include captions and labels? What's the appropriate size for them? Should you limit the number of photos on each page?

Consider these tips and you're sure to design a smart layout for your book in no time!

## 4 Easy Tips to Choose a Book Title

Whether you are writing fiction or non-fiction, you must choose the best title for your book.

### Keep It Short

Favor short titles instead of long titles. Short titles make a great impact. Statistics show that more readers remember a short book title instead of a long book title. Book titles don't have to form a complete

sentence. Phrases, terms, fragments, or even just one word might make the perfect book title if it can fully encompass the main idea of your work.

### Keep It Descriptive

The title of your book must mirror the idea of your book. One simple but effective example is the first book of C.S. Lewis' popular Chronicles of Narnia Series, *the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. With those words, you know immediately which important figures encompass the story.

You don't have to be literal all the time. Abstract ideas and allusions work as long as you can catch readers' attention and exhibit an underlying significance in hindsight. One good example is Tennessee Williams' play, *The Glass Menagerie*.

### Speak the Language of Your Readers

Your story's success relies on how much your readers can relate to and appreciate your book. Although this doesn't mean you have to write about situations that your readers have experienced, it does mean writing in a way that helps readers grasp your meaning. Apply the same reasoning as you develop a title for your book.

Using buzzwords are okay if you believe they're appropriate. Consider the long-term consequences of your choice. A popular term today may be obsolete in the next decade.

### Make It Unforgettable

This is where various factors like alliteration, rhyming, choice of verbs, and even choice of language all come into play. You don't need to use complicated words; one glance at *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* proves that rather well.

If you need help creating unforgettable book titles, focus on your book's content. What ideas in your book seemed preposterous at the start, but you defended and proved your point in the end? Can you sum them up in a few words?

Remember these tips when you choose a title for your book. Good luck!

## Software for Book Writers

Dreaming of writing your own book? Well, it is not as easy as it looks. You will have to find a theme, set up a plot, construct a good flow of ideas and format and proofread your work.

Has your dream just died? Don't worry! A handful of book writing software products can help you, especially for beginning writers. Here are some software products you might want to try.

### **NewNovelist Software**

This software claims you can write your book the way you want to. It will cut-off your writing time by following the broken-down process of book writing into manageable parts. It will help you organize your thoughts better whether writing your introduction, your plot or even your ending first.

### **Power Writer Software**

It has integrated story development and outline tools that help writers smoothen the flow of their stories. It offers fully editable outlines, dictionary, spell check and a thesaurus and a character name bank that will help you restructure your work conveniently. It gives the feel of the whole writing experience minus the hassle.

### **Character Pro Software**

This can help you find the right characters for your story every time you need one. The software contains the Enneagram system that analyzes human behaviors and fits them into what you want your characters to be. Character Pro lets you create a realistic character.

### **Storybase Software**

Storybase Software serves as your library of data. It helps writers organize their ideas and search through their story ideas with its powerful search engine system. Storybase also provides suggestions on story possibilities depending on what is in your data library. You can develop characters' mindsets and thrusts to create possible conflicts within your storyline. This software is very useful if you have problems building up your plot and ending.

### **Wizards for Word Software**

Wizards for Word is a manuscript formatting software for writers. Whether writing something as short as a book report or a 500-page novel, Wizards for Word will help you format your work before you submit it to an agent or publisher. Wizards for Word offers many powerful features such as the Character Wizard, the Plot Wizard and the Ghost Reviewer. It greatly improves your writing, editing and proofreading.

### **Find the Best Publisher for Your Book**

You're ready to publish your first book. You want to find the best publisher. You can find hundreds of publishers — big and small. The possibilities seem endless, so choose your book publisher carefully.

The advantages and disadvantages of choosing a publisher make the process complicated and confusing. Selling your book to a publisher usually means they do most of the grunt work to ensure your book's success. Publishers have industry contacts as well as the finances to produce and market your book. You can also look forward to a larger advance with a publisher.

Disadvantages also abound. Big publishers won't take on a new author unless you already have a book published. Publishers also share in the royalties and advances. This adds to additional expenses on your part.

To find the best publisher, market your book to major publishers that have a proven track record with your type of book. This will require legwork on your part, but this method is fulfilling. Although not all

publishers will consider un-agented work, you can still find many publishers who accept unsolicited proposals and book manuscripts.

If you have money to self-publish, then self-publish. Self-publishing also has pros and cons. The pros include: full control over your manuscript; publishers or editors will not request revisions; and you keep all royalties.. You can earn some money in the long run — if you know how to market your book. The cons include: lack of guidance from editors and publishers; you are responsible to market your book; and up front fees may be large to produce and distribute your book. The worst case is reviewers and bookstores won't take you or your self-published book seriously.

Internet research and websites can help you choose a publisher. You can visit several websites such as [www.bookproposalwriting.com](http://www.bookproposalwriting.com), [www.bookcatcher.com](http://www.bookcatcher.com), [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org), [www.bookmarket.com](http://www.bookmarket.com), or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

Online publishers provide you with different formats in which to publish your book, such as paperback, hard cover, pocket size, or digital. Online publishers charge equivalent fees based on page quantity, sizes or paper stock. Many online publishers offer publishing services, such as layout, graphic design and editing.

If you are serious about publishing your book, then do a lot of research to make the best choice. Many publishers are looking for new and fresh materials. This can be your passport to your writing career.

## Other Ways To Publish Your Book

Every writer dreams to publish his or her own book. Traditionally, to get your work into print you had to submit your manuscript to dozens of publishers or literary agents. Then you had to wait...and wait...and wait to get a response. This response was either an acceptance or — usually — a rejection. *Antagonizing, isn't it?*

Today's publishing trends have vastly changed in the last ten years in favor of helping aspiring authors self-publish their books with little or no

cost. Book authors have more options, thanks to the Internet, and such online publishing services offered by Lulu.com and CreateSpace.com. Online services and new printing technology empowers authors to publish and market their own books, even if the financial return is nominal. Let's learn about different alternatives to publish your own book.

#### The Indie Movement

If you are unable to sign with a well-known publisher to print your book, do not give up. Many authors successfully publish their books without the help of an agent or a famous New York publisher. Many trade paperback publishers are willing to gamble on new and unknown writers. Trade paperback publishers have smaller print demands than mainstream publishers.

A growing trend for trade paperback publishers is using new technology and printing techniques called **Print on Demand**. This new technology allows an author to place a small print order or publish just a single copy without any high costs. There is no longer a need for a huge press run. Print on Demand is a growing market for books and independent products, and this just may be your ticket to get your book published.

#### The eBook Revolution

Electronic publishing is a viable alternative to publish your book. Since the Internet is a vast world to distribute information without boundaries and with little cost, small and large electronic publishers are interested in a huge variety of genre — from self-help books, to romance, mystery, science fiction and fantasy.

Signing up with an e-book publisher is practical and a fast way to market your work as an e-book. A growing trend of people enjoy buying e-books online and reading them on laptops, computers, handheld readers, cell phones and other electronic devices.

#### Self-Publishing

New technologies have paved the way to make self-publishing a viable option to publish your book. Self-publishing no longer costs you six to seven thousand dollars; you can now self-publish at a fraction of the cost.

Printers using new technology can publish a book for a few hundred dollars, sometimes less. Plus, you can contact and pay a printer to produce your book for a certain fee. After this, you can use your own network of people and marketing skills to sell your book.

Self-publishing gives you total control — you call all the shots. You do not have to wait for a literary agent or an editor to discover you; instead, you can take things into your own hands by investing your own money.

If your book becomes a hit, then you can enjoy the returns and rights for yourself.

Like any business venture, self-publishing may have more potential for upside, but it may also have a greater chance for failure since you are responsible for marketing and selling your book. Make sure you are diligent during the distribution process; and market your book aggressively to generate steady sales.

Publishing trends have changed rapidly in the past few years. Today's book authors are empowered with new alternatives to publish their books. They make their own decisions and retain all creative rights.

Gone are the days you waited 4-8 weeks to hear back from a major publisher about your book proposal or manuscript. Self-publishing banishes the annoying rejection slip. You have better alternatives to publish your book your way.

### 5 Book Marketing Tips for Self-Promotion

Writing and finishing your book is just the beginning. Getting yourself published is the halfway point. To reach the end, you need to overcome one more obstacle, and that's marketing. If you want your book to be a success, don't leave the marketing to your publisher. You can use many marketing techniques to promote your book.

#### Tip 1. Give Free Copies to Reviewers

If you're confident about the quality of your work then go ahead and send free copies to reviewers. The publicity from their reviews, especially if they rave about your book, will interest many people to buy your book.

#### Tip 2. Post Summaries and Excerpts

Post summaries wherever and whenever you can. Be sure your publisher grants you permission to do this. You can use your book's back cover blurb for the summary. Add an excerpt from your book's prologue and/or first chapter.

#### Tip 3. Prepare a Media Kit

Prepare a media kit to make it easy for people from all sectors of media to write about you and your book. Your media kit should include a pitch letter (think of it as a variation of a query letter) that introduces you and your book. Include — in your pitch letter — a brief history of your career and personal life as well. Include photos of yourself, the book, and other events. Lastly, don't forget to provide your contact details!

#### Tip 4. Hold a Contest

Free copies of your books shouldn't just go to reviewers. People from your target market or readership should have a chance to win a copy. This is an excellent promotion strategy because it generates word-of-mouth marketing and increases your book's recognition in the marketplace.

#### Tip 5. Join a Contest

Of course, you, too, should join writing contests - particularly those that promote you and your book. Winning awards will encourage readers to read your book. Finding loyal readers is usually the most difficult hurdle. If you manage to achieve that, the rest is much, much easier! You can find many writing contests at [FreelanceWriting.com](http://FreelanceWriting.com), a free website for freelance writers.

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How to Write a Book Proposal - Super Fast! (2009)

Our free e-book, *How to Write a Book Proposal - Super Fast!* shows you how to go from idea to completed book proposal in seven short days.

Imagine --- in seven days, you could be sending your proposal to agents and editors! The ebook includes everything you need to know. Just follow our easy steps!

*How to Write a Book Proposal - Super Fast!* shows you exactly what a book proposal is, and an EASY way to come up with more saleable ideas for books than you could write in a dozen lifetimes. Published by Brian Scott, founder of [BookProposalWriting.com](http://BookProposalWriting.com)

Sample Book Proposal (2009)

This is a real book proposal that landed a book contract with a major book publisher.

Use our sample book proposal as a template to develop your own successful book proposal.

Our sample book proposal reveals:

- Book proposal sections you MUST include
- The order in which your book proposal must flow
- How to start your book proposal
- Sample content for each section
- Much more!

Published by Brian Scott, founder of Book Proposal Writing.

Headlines That Sell! - Fill-in-the-Blank Headlines for Freelance Copywriters (2011)

Copywriting is the art of using sales copy to persuade readers to become buyers. In this free e-book, we focus on the most important part of sales copy: the headline. We show copywriters how to craft good headlines; then we give you an exhaustive list of "fill-in-the-blank" headlines for all occasions. Published by Freelance Writing editors.



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