

The
Wow

e-newsletter

Principles

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Rush, rush, RUSH!

There are just a few days before Christmas and so much must still be done. Bet you haven't had a chance to write, right? That's okay, because January will be here before you know it!

January is synonymous with New Year's resolutions, and this is a great time to make a resolution to WRITE! Even if it's just for a few minutes each day, if you're serious about writing, then it needs to become an integral part of your everyday routine.



What Kind of Writer are You?

There are many kinds of writers in the world, but we're going to focus on just two types—the *wanna-be* writer and the *successful* writer.

The first is the **wanna-be writer** who has good ideas and can even write reasonably well, but who is afraid. Those fears can be both conscious and subconscious: "I'm really not a good writer," or "I'm not sure how this publishing business works and I don't want to look stupid." From these fears come excuses for not writing: "My family isn't supportive of my becoming a writer, because they think it's a waste of time," or "Editors only look at e-mail submissions and I don't own a computer and can't afford one," or "The writing business is too confusing; I don't know anything about contracts, rights, kill fees and royalties." Then there's our favorite, "If I could only get an agent, then I could be a great writer!"

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Remember, an agent *represents* you and your work, and as such, will only take you on as a client if you have *written something worth selling*.

If you truly want to be a writer, you must take positive actions that move you toward that goal. There are numerous resources available to learn the business and the mechanics of the writing game, as well as untold numbers of local and national writers' organizations, websites and publications that can answer questions, critique your work and help you find markets for your particular writing interest. And though it may be difficult, you don't even need to own a computer. Most local libraries have computer stations that you can use for free, and you can even set up free e-mail accounts.

But, like any business, if your desire is to become a true professional writer, you need the tools. It's safe to say that it is impossible to be a truck driver without a truck to drive. Whether you start your business with an old pick-up or a used computer, you can work your way up to something better.

The second type of writer is the **successful writer**. Ask successful writers how they got where they are and their answers begin to mirror one another. They took writing classes, they networked with other writers, they read books and magazines about the writing business and they started small and worked hard. But the one thing that all successful writers have in common—and the one thing that comes hardest for most wanna-be writers—is that **THEY WROTE!** They wrote every chance they got and purposely made those chances happen each day. Your chance to become a successful writer can only happen by writing words and sentences and paragraphs and chapters. There is no other way. So make that resolution to write, right now!

Got Questions?

If you have any questions about writing, publishing and other related subjects, please send them to Questions@PublishingSyndicate.com. While we cannot respond individually and personally to each question, we will try to include the most interesting or most-asked questions (and our answers) in future editions of *The Wow Principles e-newsletter*.

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HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF!

Stories are needed now for two books: *Chicken Soup for the Shoppers Soul* and *Chicken Soup for the Menopausal Soul*. Info as follows:

Shoppers Soul – Submission deadline is February 28, 2006, but the earlier you get your stories in, the better. For more information and submission guidelines, visit www.shoppersoul.com.

Menopausal Soul – This book is gearing up for possible inclusion on the 2007 publication schedule. Funny and endearing stories are needed quickly to convince the publisher that this book would make a great addition to the *Chicken Soup* series! Dahlynn is creating this book, and she especially in need of stories written by men (menopause from their point-of-view) and funny stories. Send submissions immediately to Story@PublishingSyndicate.com. Please check our website for specific submission guidelines.

Info Promised in November Newsletter

In the November newsletter, we teased you with info regarding why it's better to get a story in long before a noted submission deadline. Of course, if you've been contracted to deliver a story to an editor, it's a general rule amongst professional writers to have it in before deadline.

But with *Chicken Soup* books, the earlier you get your story in for consideration, the better! And here's the reason why, and this is a definite INSIDER TIP! All *Chicken Soup* stories go through a very structured grading process. It's too much to go into detail here, but a story that shows potential will be read and graded by upwards of fifty readers. If your story is submitted early, then it can begin going through that process earlier. If you procrastinate and submit right at deadline, more times than not, a story just like your story has already gone through the process and has been tentatively selected. At that late date the coauthor is usually only in need of a few certain stories to fill holes—or needs—in the manuscript.

MORE HOT STUFF!

Learn how to WOW an editor to purchase your nonfiction short story!

Check out our latest Wow Principle e-booklet, found on our website! For only \$9.95, you'll get 25-pages (over 8,000 words) of valuable tips and information on how to wow that editor or publisher with your short story! This e-booklet is sure to get you motivated to write in 2006!

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