

How to Get Published: The Basics and Beyond

A few words you'll hear a lot

- Manuscript
- Proposal
- Query letter
- One-sheet
- Guidelines
- Platform

People you should know

- Your audience
- Editor
- Agent
- Publisher
- Publicist

Types of publishing

- Traditional
- Self-publishing/Indie
- Partnership

Markets

- Ways to break in
- Non-paying markets
- Paying markets
- Market guides

Resources

- *The Christian Writers Market Guide* (www.christianwritersmarketguide.com)
- *The Chicago Manual of Style (Seventeenth Edition)* (www.chicagomanualofstyle.org)
- *The Christian Writer's Manual of Style (4th Edition)*
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (www.merriam-webster.com)
- Online resources
 - <https://christianwritersinstitute.com>
 - <https://www.writersdigest.com>
 - <https://www.booksandsuch.com/blog>
 - <https://thewriteconversation.blogspot.com>
 - www.jerryjenkins.com
 - www.thewritinglife.ws
 - www.yourbestwritinglife.buzzsprout.com
 - Many others, including most agents' and writers conferences' blogs
- Lots and lots of excellent books
- Writers conferences

A few common myths—

- Beginning writers have no chance.
- I'm not a true writer until I've published a book.
- Getting rejected means I'm a bad writer.
- Editors will fix all my mistakes.
- Good writers are born that way.
- Editors want to mess up my project. I need to be wary of them.
- Once I sell the manuscript, I have no say in what happens. The editor's decisions rule.
- All I have to do is write the manuscript. The publisher will do the rest.
- Agents only want to make money off writers.
- My book will sell itself.
- If I want to sell books, I need to line up all the book signings I can.
- I will get rich.
- Writing a book makes me famous.
- The writing life is glamorous.

Tips to get started—

- Study the craft and mechanics of writing.
- Start small.
- Plug into a community of writers.
- Write, rewrite, and rewrite some more.
- Learn the art of self-editing and do it.

What a serious writer does—

- Follows guidelines
- Honors deadlines
- Thinks about the readers' needs
- Accepts rejection as part of the process
- Realizes the importance of industry relationships
- Produces quality work
- Never stops learning
- Promotes