

Writing for Publication

Writing for publication (whether you're self-publishing, subsidy publishing, or commercially publishing) consists of these steps:

1. Read. A lot.
2. Think about what you could write about—something you're knowledgeable about and feel passionate about.
3. Jot down notes about ideas that come to you for articles and other short pieces, then books.
4. Consider what you want to do with your writing:
 - write one or more short pieces
 - publish one or two books
 - try to become a professional freelance author
5. Learn writing techniques. Read writing books, find writing tips on author and editor websites, take a class/course, attend writers' conferences, etc.
6. Write *something*.
7. Join or start a critique group (or get a critique partner).
8. Get a professional critique of a few chapters.
9. Rewrite chapters based on the critique suggestions and direction.
10. Get an in-depth, line-by-line edit of your chapters from a professional editor (and study it).
11. Revise chapters based on the editor's suggestions and corrections.
12. Finish the manuscript.
13. Get a professional critique of the complete manuscript.
14. Rewrite the manuscript based on the critique suggestions and direction.
15. Get an in-depth, line-by-line edit of your manuscript from a professional editor.
16. Revise based on the editor's suggestions and corrections.
17. Consider publishing alternatives: commercial publishers (large and small), agent, subsidy publisher for print and/or e-book, self-publishing).

18. If you want to try for a commercial publisher or agent:
 - Find potential publishers (make an A list, B list, etc.).
 - Prepare a proposal.
 - Have the proposal critiqued.
 - Rewrite the proposal, then have it professionally edited.
 - Revise the proposal, then have it professionally proofread.
 - Have your sample chapters critiqued.
 - Rewrite the sample chapters, then have them professionally edited.
 - Revise the sample chapters, then have them professionally proofread.
 - Submit your polished proposal with sample chapters to publishers/agents.
 - While waiting to hear from publishers/agents, have manuscript professionally proofread.

19. If you choose to subsidy publish or self-publish:
 - Choose a publishing option and/or subsidy publisher.
 - Carefully proofread your already edited/polished manuscript.
 - Build your platform (speaking engagements, social media, etc.).
 - Submit your manuscript to be printed. Order a proof copy.
 - Check the proof copy carefully, and get opinions from target readers.
 - Order a quantity you believe you can sell.

At each step along the way, *pray*. If you follow God's leading, you will achieve whatever type of success He has in mind for your writing, in His timing.