

Why do I write?

What do I write?

When do I write?

How do I write?

Who are my target readers?

What do I hope to achieve with my writing?

[Please see over for long-term and short-term goals.]

SHORT TERM GOALS

LONG TERM GOALS

The first major success for any writer is getting words down on paper.

The second is submitting them to a publisher or editor.

The third is handling rejection.

The fourth, improving your craft. (This is a lifelong process.)

The fifth is learning your market.

The sixth, lifting the bar.

Where is your writing going? Where are you going with your writing?

If you are dedicated enough, and prepared to put in the work, your own personal sky is the limit.

Some secrets of being a good writer:

Anne McCaffrey says, "Read!"

Kurt Vonnegut says, "Think reader first."

Jeffrey Archer says, "The market is there. Know it."

George R.R. Martin says, "Apply cheeks to chair."

Stephen King says, "Bum glue."

W. Somerset Maugham said: "There are three rules for writing success. Unfortunately, no-one knows what they are."

Twenty Ways Not To Get Published

1. Tell yourself, "I am not a writer", or, "I will never be a writer."
2. Listen to what other people say and let it stop you writing.
3. Procrastinate.
4. Write only when you feel like it or when you've got nothing better to do.
5. Write without any idea why you're writing, what you're writing and who you're writing for.
6. Write about anything and everything instead of deciding what you know best and what is saleable.
7. Refuse to make your own writing a priority.
8. Wait until you can write perfectly instead of merely writing what you know best and what is saleable.
9. Be intimidated by the empty page.
10. Walk around with your eyes shut and your brain in neutral.
11. Don't ever read.
12. Do nothing *but* read (especially books about writing.)
13. Take short cuts.
14. Don't let your personality show through in what you write.
15. Like the idea of being a writer more than writing.
16. Take rejection personally.
17. Be afraid of editors, publishers, critics and other writers.
18. Be unprofessional in your approach and your presentation.
19. Send all your stories only to The Listener and Next.
20. Don't ever submit your work at all.

BOOKS TO READ

BRANDE D. *Becoming a writer*. USA, JP Tarcher, n.d.

CANFIELD, J. & others. *Chicken soup for the writer's soul: stories to open the heart and rekindle the spirit of writers*. USA, Health Communications, 2000.

CHRISTCHURCH LIBRARY. *Writing and illustrating books for children*. NZ, Christchurch City Council, 2001. 12th rev. ed.

MILLS, P. *Writing in action: a resource book*, UK, Routledge, 1997.

ROSIER-JONES, J. *So you want to write: a practical and inspirational guide*. NZ, tandem Books, 2000.

STRUNK W. & WHITE EJ. *Elements of style*. UK, Allyn & Bacon, 2000. 4th rev. ed.

WRAY CS. *Writing for magazines: a beginner's guide*. USA, NTC, 1997.