



# AUTHORSHIP

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## Editor's Say



**H**ere we are at the winter issue of Authorship. This issue seems to be focused on beginning writers so happy holidays to those just putting your toes in the water. Take the articles as a Santa gift from the older, wiser members of this profession. Take the seeds of advice and use them wisely. The ability to write is a rare gift. I once thought everyone could do it. I once thought many people could do it, it just took desire and practice. I was wrong. Yes, desire is necessary, learning proper English and grammar is exceedingly helpful. But none of these things makes a classic. After reading thousands of pieces I am sure writing is a gift. You aren't wrong, some very bad writers get published. I don't have a television so I spend a large amount of time reading. So yes, I agree that com-

mercial book publishing can't pick a good book. They tend to pick a book that they can put their "money" behind. Too bad that book sometimes isn't the best book out there. Or sometimes a fine writer just pens a horrible book for whatever reason. A Good writer gets tired and writes a bad book. Junk happens and sometimes you are stuck with it, but don't stop reading as the old saying goes "Pick yourself up. Dust yourself off, and start all over again." If you are between projects, I suggest you might pick up that horrible book and start rewriting it. It could be far better than the original. And if you have been questioning your own abilities maybe this little

side project will show you what mistakes you haven't been making. No matter the outcome, it is better than watching re-runs of *Happy Days*.

I'm sending each of you a gift this year so close your eyes and hold out your hand. I wish 2024 will bring you the publication dream you desire, and the self-confidence to write that big writing piece you've been wanting to pen.

Happy Holidays!

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There is this misconception that is somewhat a cliché, suggesting creators, including writers—any type of writer—typically operate or end up in perpetual want, hence the term starving artist. If the cliché universe were islands competing against themselves, this one would probably be a dignified Hawaii. Ironic. Though lots of artists end up struggling not because of a substantive stance to this saying per se, but rather due to a belief system...a bad one at that, which often stems from misplaced priorities, right from the very beginning.

Let me explain...

You see, writing, like any other profession can catapult any person to any desired level of income. Did you know there are many millionaire writers? And others earning six figures—from Amanda Hocking to Hugh Howey—all earning from Amazon or self-publishing? All of these were once regular folks just like you who didn't think they could break through despite what those stubborn inner voice repeatedly echoed.

So, whether you are interested in creative fiction, business writing, speech writing or creating your own publishing empire with either physical or digital versions, there is a starving market out there in every niche. Both businesses and consumers need answers to nagging problems and as long as you can creatively serve them, offer solutions and lead the way in terms of attaining results, then my friend, the world may very well be your own creative oyster, making you smile away to the bank... while those who think, believe or want to just follow 'their passion', whatever that means... while living in perpetual misery can have their way.

But for the ambitious out there, they certainly can get the desired success, fame and other perks that comes with writer's life.

To attain these requires mastery of the craft and being strategic about how to evolve. The first step is by focusing on the fundamentals and move on from there. In other words, taking baby steps and growing as you go...every day.

Are you an aspiring or budding writer, author or publisher of your own work? And want to get ahead in record time?

Below are a few tips budding writers can utilize to shine through in just a few months such that they can start earning good money via excellent writing. Successful writers do these routines every day without fail. With writing just as any other career path, there is no need at all to reinvent the wheel, no. The secret simply is following what others have done with great results.

Here we go then:

1. Read a lot. Reading has always been a great way to improve your craft and one of the best ways is by reading the quality materials out there. It could be books, periodicals, articles or newspapers. Whatever your preferred avenue, the idea is to get immersed in good writing, which in turn kind of binds to your subconscious as you pick how different genres of writing are structured by successful writers. The more you read, the more you grasp. One of my preferred ways of reading daily is via subscribing to and reading e-newsletters from writers, business folks or mentors I admire. This could be masters in the particular area you are captivated by or a rainbow of fields you are interested in. Some people I follow such as bestselling author, writer and marketer Seth Godin sends daily emails from the very short yet inspiring and practical ...all the way to several pages of highly engaging content. Yet others put out content about 3-4 times a week. In any case you can in this way have a constant stream of quality writing you can learn, emulate and even profit from. Keeping this a daily habit is a no brainer and can set you worlds apart from mediocrity in a just a short while. And for the long haul as well.

*(continued on page 4)*

Writing a book is a lot like getting married. It is intensely personal, it calls for a big commitment, and it requires a sustained effort. And like marriage, there is no guarantee of success.

Books and marriages often fail for the same reasons. The most common reason is that the writer doesn't know enough about the four essential components of a successful book. It may surprise you to know that the first and most important of these components is the self.

1) Self -- Many writers get an idea and jump into writing about it, never giving any thought to the motive behind writing it. Yet why you want to write helps determine what you write. The second component is:

2) The subject -- Do you know enough about your topic to convey how your (or your character's) experiences felt? Do you know enough to teach your readers what they want to know about the subject? The third essential component is

3) The readers -- Are you clear about who you are writing this book for? Do you know the profile of the ideal reader of this book? The fourth component is, of course, the actual writing of the book. This includes the format, mechanics, style, tone, etc.

4) The writing-- Do you know the writing techniques that will create and sustain reader interest in your book? If you have sufficient knowledge about your motives, your subject and your readers, you've already solved many of the most aggravating problems of writing. Successful writing requires a harmonious blend of writer, subject and reader.

When this is achieved, an alchemy takes place. This alchemy informs the writing process, cutting through the common problems writers face. Once the alchemy is there, a writer can usually work swiftly and efficiently, avoiding many writing pitfalls and completing the book in less time than (s)he expected it to take. Achieving this alchemy depends on knowing a number of things about yourself, the writer, and your motives; about the subject to be written about, and knowing some essentials about the people you hope will read your book. Let's take a look at each of them:

#### WHY YOU WANT TO WRITE:

Maybe you've always dreamed of achieving fame and fortune as an author. You've pictured yourself chatting with David Letterman or Jay Leno, or being interviewed on Good Morning, America. You see yourself autographing books for a long line of admiring readers or standing before large audiences, telling them about your book. Perhaps you see your book being made into a movie. Do you know what kind of book to write to turn this dream into a reality? Maybe you want to write as a means of self-actualization. You know you have things to say that others will find interesting but you've never taken the time to organize them into a meaningful text. Writing a book can create just the opportunity you need to organize your vast body of knowledge on a subject, or to explore your own psychological depths. Do you know who would be interested in reading this book? Or maybe you hope to gain immortality, to perpetuate yourself through your autobiography. Other reasons for writing an autobiography include creating a legacy for your family, to give children and grandchildren a sense of belonging and continuity. Your motive for writing a book might be to help others. You may have pioneered an experience (anything from a self-cure for cancer to roller-blading across the U.S.) or discovered a new or better way to do something.

What you've done or learned could help others, and you want to write a book to share. Do you know who would welcome this information? Recording knowledge, experience or history is a valuable contribution. It can bring fame and fortune, help you self-actualize, advance your career or be a way to spend your spare time constructively. Your book could provide an important teaching tool. It is important for you to know which of the above motives are your reasons for wanting to write, because your reasons are tightly connected to whether or not the kind of book you write will be a success.

#### WHAT YOU WANT TO WRITE:

First, what types of books are there? Books can be broken down into fiction or non-fiction. Fiction includes general, romance, Gothic and historical novels; westerns; mysteries; suspense and adventure stories; children's books. Non-fiction includes all factual books: how-to's; cookbooks; books on history; art; travel, plus academic books on any area of knowledge. There are also hundreds of professional and trade journals which print articles in specific areas of interest. These can be written in any of the following nonfiction forms: news, feature, analysis, how-to, opinion, speculation, interview, inspirational, evaluative, study, narrative, history, journal, observations, creative nonfiction, summary, list or satire. Now, how can your motive influence the success of the kind of book you want to write? Well, consider these facts. According to the Writer's Market, only 5% of writers earn over \$80,000 a year. Your chances of attaining fame and fortune will be better, therefore, if you write the type of book that the greatest number of people want to read. It helps if it's the kind of book that will translate well into film or video format.

The most popular kinds of fiction books are love stories and legal thrillers. The most popular non-fiction books are how-to's, followed by books on health care; men/women relationships; business and management advice; spiritual and psychological works, and dieting. If your motive is self actualization or to help others, the popularity of your book will be a minimal factor for you.

*(continued on page 6)*

## 5 Practical Ways (continued)

2. Write a lot. This is second in line that kind of accentuates daily or regular reading and involves honing the craft on a grand scale. You see, when you write regularly, it simply becomes second nature as you improve in every aspect. If its business writing, the more you write, the more you understand the dynamics of the writing itself, and the essence and the psychology behind the purpose of whatever you pen down. Whether it's headlines that grabs attention making the reader hooked or the lead which literally drags her into wanting to go further to get the real gist or the transitions that makes for a breezy flow and easy read, the more you practice, the better you get. Professional writers swear by the ritual of writing every day.

Yes, you heard that right...writing every single day...and many of them actually do, no matter what. From writing at least an hour a day to writing 750 words a day or any other approach that works for you, as long as it's consistent, within just a couple of months you'll be head and shoulders above your peers, leaving them in the dust in terms of ability, competence and confidence. This in turn helps in taking you to any desired level you aspire. There are software that help in keeping the discipline which you simply set up and type away. And if you are the old-fashioned type or prefer this route, the notebook comes in handy here.

One practical way of doing this that equally sets you apart on a whole different level is copying great writing by hand in a notebook...yes, with a pen or pencil. This could be a viral article, well performing 10-20-page direct mail advertisements or any other material acknowledged to be excellent that you want to master. Doing this you get the best of both worlds of practice inherently absorbing the style, structure of the best writing out there...such that you can do the same with relative ease. And how exactly do you do this?

Simply get about 10 copies of excellent writing preferably ones that impressed you in some way or won awards, then copy by hand all of them. After doing this, you then write one or two of your own or rewrite any of the piece using your own original titles, body and conclusion.

Diligently executing this exercise— otherwise called neurological imprinting— a couple times a week, for even just one month can perform wonders and help improve your craft. Yes, it may be boring, tedious and unappealing but super effective, simpler than you think and can triple the speed of becoming a competent and sought after writer...Do it for 3 consistent months even if you don't ever have to do it again, the rewards can stay forever...potentially keeping you in the top percentile of good writers.

3. Attend a Writing Class. In 2007 famous American cartoonist, writer and best-selling author the guy behind the Dilbert graphic books, Scott Adams, wrote a short piece titled, *The day you became a better writer*. And it was quite a gem. Simple. Direct. Practical. As the saying goes, simple is compelling...

In the piece he highlights the essence of using simple words, small sentences and cutting out unnecessary wordings, highlighting the notion of conveying your message in fewer words.

But the real takeaway in that short essay of his comes from the very first sentence, which states how he learned all those

writing principles that seem like common sense and they truly are. But then most folks don't know, imbibed let alone adopt in professional writing or every day correspondence. And what did that very first sentence...the lead of the essay say? He learned all of that in just a day's writing class which lasted just a short while.

This makes it worthwhile to join a writing class with real people, participants and feedback from professional tutors. This could be weakened classes, a night class or even a live online masterclass which may suit millennials and the Gen Z demographic. Because it's always practical and the atmosphere enchanting, you'll come out more learned, better motivated and self-confident both in writing and whatever business aspect in which you want to apply it to. In fact, writing classes has produced many successful writers. It simply works.

Join a Writers' Group. You've probably heard the saying that's echoed by none other than personal development and career coaches which goes along the lines of, you are the average of the folks you hang around with. Now let that sink in for a minute. What now? Reflect and assess yourself, then if you're honest about it, you get a feeling of why you are in a particular situation in a particular area of your life.

(continued on page 5)

## *Character Sheets (continued from page 3)*

Many people tend to shrug this off even when it rings true, making excuses that makes them stuck in a rut...such as the route to a starving artist existence. To that I say, drop the attitude. Because there is always a way out of any unfavorable or stifling environment. All we have to do is decide, burn the proverbial bridges and take action. Action is indeed the bridge between philosophy and results. As you hang out with or begin to be within a circle of successful people you want to be like or simply a collective of folks that really want to get there, the job is half done. The rest becomes following in the footsteps of these folks in practical terms which also comes with a mindset shift. Very important. And so it is with writing or indeed any professional creative endeavor which writing can help develop further anyway. The group you join may be an interactive one online, one with resources and feedback access via email or direct messages or could be a weekly gathering of sorts.

The most important thing is that being within such a group creates several advantages which includes getting invaluable insights on both business and life, pushing yourself to new frontiers by setting big goals and better yet creating and adapting to systems, accountability, better productivity and of course making new connections and marketing opportunities. The last one mentioned here, marketing if done well within a group setting can catapult your aspiring or existent writing business to the stratosphere within a short time. This is basically due to a spirit de corps kind of atmosphere that is apparent within group settings and the support that typically comes with it.

From referrals to shared paid work or even getting access to a life changing gig, anything is possible. Facebook groups, LinkedIn groups and other such congregations abound in disparate fields and sub niches. Get creative...and just find the best and take your pick. Many are free while others require a one time, monthly or yearly fee commitment. The paid versions come with perks with different levels you can start from depending on your budget, and comes with numerous benefits.

If budget is a constraint however, the free ones or at least those that offer both free and paid versions can be a starting point which you can upgrade later when you starting earning well, hopefully through what you learn within the group. This is invaluable simply because in the writing world, no one man is an island. The more you connect and engage with others the further away from a starving artist you'll be...and a better writer to boot. What's more the investment typically pay for themselves in a jiffy.

5. And Finally, the Holy Grail...Marketing. As long as you practice all these highlighted tips above...all four of them with diligence, then you would have as much as 80 per cent of success in writing. You have a functional system...This in turn will enable you achieve self growth and set a pedestal towards exactly where you want to be. And when you add marketing into the mix, then the sky is the limit in terms to what you can earn. This is basically the tool that helps set you apart from the starving artist to the well-paid artist where you can earn as much as you want. You know, the type that is booked solid for months on end with paid retainer contracts, some paid 50% upfront or indeed anyhow you structure it.

In the book, *The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing*, the authors Al Ries and Jack Trout echoing Seth Godin, highlight how and why, setting yourself up right out of the gate as a business is important and vital to your overall success. In particular, the area of having success faster when you have a budgeted amount to put yourself out there is quite interesting. And practical. The more money you spend, albeit in a strategic way, the better your chances of success and faster too.

The good news is that one can also start with no budget at all via free publicity like press releases, blogging, writing for free in newspapers and magazines.

Following the first four tips highlighted earlier here diligently means you'll have a solid portfolio of good writing, which can further be promoted via search engine optimization SEO articles where people can find you online...leading to all sorts of opportunities. When I say opportunity here, I mean paid services or getting customers for published products of yours.

One of the secrets of successful publishers and writers is that they showcase their expertise and aren't afraid to reach out to prospective clients. In other words, self-promotion is key and there are many ways to do it whether you're identify as an introvert or extrovert. This could be via email, phone, search engine optimization, SEO, via organizations they are familiar with and known, alumni clubs, or even family and friends.

The more you do this, the better chances of success and there are platforms that you can do many of these tasks and practices, all in one place...making it relatively easier for you.

There you have it.

You can actually get ahead in the writing universe to exactly where you want to be. You just need to start from somewhere, get the momentum going, work hard and indeed smart too. And you'll be there earning the fees you deserve or getting the ideal customers you desire if self-publishing and selling via other channels is your preferred option. The sure thing is that self-publishing in the 21st century digital world we are in takes out many barriers.

*(continued on page 8)*



**NWA BOOKSTORE**

**NWA GUIDE TO WRITING FOR BEGINNERS**

Basics for every writer by Sandy Whelchel

Rowman and Littlefield publishers \$24.95 + \$2.20 p&h (retail \$25.95)

**THE FREELANCE WRITER'S BIBLE**

by Dave Trotter

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***ALL THE ABOVE BOOKS MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH NWA.***

**Foundation News**

We are still accepting scholarship applications, so if you know an outstanding young writer please have them apply. Applications are available on the NWA website under the 'Contests' link.



Now, through your National Writers Association membership, you can save up to 80% off the list price of office supplies.

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You may already know that your book will appeal to only a limited market. Who over 40, for instance, will be interested in roller blading across the United States? How many people will be interested in reading the history of your home town, or your opinions, evaluations, or your life story? Perhaps your main motive is career advancement. Will this purpose be best served by targeting beginners in your field as your audience? Your peers? Those who have been in the field longer than you? Do you know what differences in approach are needed to write successfully for these three different markets? The same questions apply to those who want to write a book to help others. Who are these people? How much do you know about them? Is your reason for helping them to impress them, to encourage them or to inform them? These are all factors in determining the contents and style of your book. Now you need to know if you have what it takes to write that book.

**IF YOU CAN WRITE**

Do you have the time to write? Do you like to write? Are you an idea person? Do you have patience? Do you have the training to be a polished writer? Can you make the emotional commitment to the type of solitude and perseverance required to write your book? Don't get discouraged if you've answered no to some of these questions. By following the step-by-step approach outlined in my book, you'll find that a time commitment of as little as one hour a day can get the job done. The essential part is your emotional commitment.

*(continued on page 8)*



## Books by Members



### BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Our member Jerry Brown Schwartz has just released **FORTUNATE ABANDONMENTS**, a novel based on the lives of her great-aunts and a great-uncle.

After the death of their mother, the Darnell children are left in the care of their unscrupulous father who only wants to unload the burden so he can marry a wealthy woman he has his focus on. He convinces a much older man to marry Monterey the oldest girl. Dessie the second oldest is essentially “farmed out” as maid. Azzie and six-year-old Cal found a traveling circus to join. Azzie’s talent with horses eventually earns her star billing as a bareback rider and young Cal earns a place in the owner’s heart as the child he never had.

Dessie became bolder with her bare-back routine. Mr. Ward was concerned. He tries to get her to take less chances but she won’t listen. She also becomes enthralled with a young high-wire acrobat until she runs away with him. Eventually the circus owner sells the circus and buys land to build a town and any of the performers were invited to build a home there and join in raising crops.

Jerry Brown Schwartz has done an excellent job of bringing four people to life who she knew very little about. Breathing life into her grandmother Monterey and her great aunts Azzie and Dessie, given the distance in time and generations involved hours of research and a healthy imagination. She has done an outstanding job of bringing them to life on the page.

Unfortunately, we weren’t given a price for the book. We wish Jerry Brown Schwartz every success with **FORTUNATE ABANDONMENTS**.

(continued from page 5)

All you have to do get prepared, do the work and you may even find traditional publishers at your doorsteps begging to do business with you.

So...

You are unstoppable. You can achieve excellence with gold (I mean dollars...lots of it) in your hands for good measure.

Go read, write, train more, form alliances and promote yourself such that you are booked solid.

Working and earning as folks line up waiting to buy from you surely feels good.

It’s all in your hands. Go for it. Start, expand and grow starting today. Right now.

Bonus Tip

Attend Writing conferences... even if it’s just once a year. From a one-day conference to a 3-day event, the networking opportunities, business insights and indeed the chance of getting better at your craft could be strongly magnified. It is a great investment. Do this whenever you get the chance. It is truly something else...from it alone you may get on a platter and indeed absorb all the highlighted tips to your solar plexus where it stays forever.

Get on with it then...

Write and Grow Rich! And you could be the possible next coveted prize winner to boot.

To learn further tips and tricks of honing your professional writing skills, gain confidence, network with fellow writers, showcase your craft and more... all in one place, check out <https://www.journoportfolio.com/>

(continued from page 6)

You’ve got to believe in your project and believe in yourself. You have to be convinced of the importance of writing this book. You have to commit to it, and the best way to do that is to make a contract with yourself. Your contract is your vow. Decide on a time of day when you can consistently devote time to writing. Then assess how much time you can spend at it daily. Don’t overestimate. It’s important for you to write consistently each day, at the same time and if possible in the same location. If all you can realistically expect to devote to writing on a daily basis is fifteen minutes, then contract with yourself for fifteen minutes. Then, if it turns out that you can spend two hours at it on some days, consider that bonus time. Once you’re clear with yourself about when, where, and what time you can give to your writing, write a simple contract with yourself: Here’s an example:

I am a writer, now engaged in the writing of a book about \_\_\_\_\_. I pledge to devote \_\_\_\_\_ (minutes/hours) to this project every day, from \_\_\_\_\_ (hour) to \_\_\_\_\_ (hour). Signed: Date:

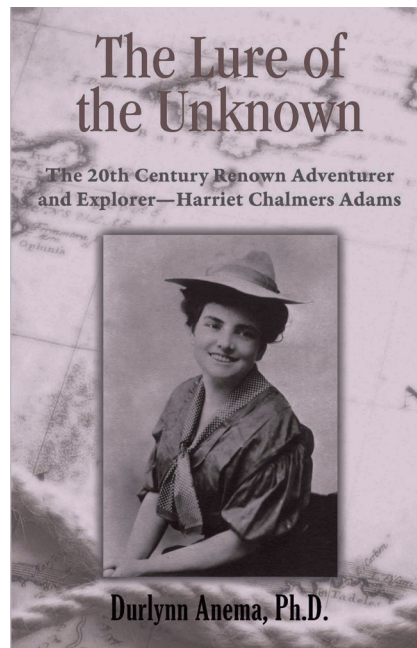
Don’t over look this step. It seals your commitment to yourself to follow through on this project and solemnizes the importance of this task. It also formalizes exactly what part of your life you will carve out to make way for this accomplishment, and it commits you to getting into the habit of writing. Now inform your family, friends and associates that you will be unavailable at those times. It’s important that your writing time be uninterrupted. Other people will have to take it as seriously as you do, allowing you quality time for your work.

### FYI

\*\*\*If you’re considering working with an agent or a publisher, please contact us for current information. Please contact us on our website at [www.nationalwriters.com](http://www.nationalwriters.com), or email us at [Natlwritersassn](mailto:Natlwritersassn)



*Meet the Press*



The Lure of the Unknown — Hardcover  
By Durlynn Anema, Ph.D.  
\$24.95  
ISBN: 978-0-88100-183-9

Harriet Chalmers Adams was one of the most remarkable women of the early 20th century, yet few people today know of her exploits. She had always dreamed of adventure as she explored California and The West on horseback with her father, read her world geography book, and watched the ships of many nations enter Stockton harbor. Her dream became reality when she married Frank Adams. While they often traveled together she also was solo on many adventures traveling, at great peril, through some of the most treacherous parts of the globe. An explorer who traveled over 40,000 miles in Central and South America, Harriet also was a top lecturer for National Geographic Society, a war correspondent during World War I, a founder/first president of the Society of Woman Geographers, and writer of articles published not only in the United States but throughout the Western World. In 1911, she was the first woman to speak at the opening ceremonies of the Associated Advertising Clubs of America. Harriet fulfilled her dreams of travel and left her mark throughout the world -- not to be forgotten but to be admired because she respected both the beauty of the world's nature and the generosity of its inhabitants.

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Have a story to tell but no outlet? Take charge of your craft. Published your memoirs, your scrapbooks, your journals, your travel photos, your works of watercolor art, your fairytales. Publish then into quality, four color books with sewn bindings. Go to [www.storytellersrus.com](http://www.storytellersrus.com) and begin. The writer within deserves this chance to make a difference.

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**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**“A PROFESSIONAL WRITER IS AN AMATEUR WHO DIDN'T QUIT.”**

**-RICHARD BACH**

# NWA SHORT STORY CONTEST

OPENS April 1 annually

## PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST:

The purpose of the National Writers Assn. Short Story Contest is to encourage the development of creative skills, recognize and reward outstanding ability in the area of short story writing.

## CONTEST RULES:

Any genre of short story manuscript may be entered. All entries must be postmarked by July 1. Only unpublished works may be submitted. All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, in the English language. Maximum length is 5,000. Those unsure of proper manuscript format should request Research Report #35.

The entry must be accompanied by entry form (photocopies are acceptable), entry fee of \$15 per submission, and return SASE if you wish the material and rating sheets returned. **OTHERWISE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE DESTROYED.** The U.S. Postal Service will not allow us to use your metered postage unless it is undated. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged without a return postcard. Author's name and address must appear on the first page. Entries remain the property of the author and may be submitted during the contest as long as they are not published before the final notification of winners. Final prizes will be awarded at the NWA Workshop in June.

## JUDGING AND PRIZES

Judging will be based on originality, marketability, research, and reader interest. Copies of the judges evaluation sheets will be sent to entrants furnishing an SASE with their entry. First through fifth place awards will be announced in January. 1st Prize -- \$250; 2nd Prize -- \$100; 3rd Prize -- \$50; 4th through 10th places will receive a book. First through third place winners may be asked to grant one-time rights for publication in *AUTHORSHIP* magazine. Honorable Mentions receive a certificate.

## ENTRY FEE AND CRITIQUES

The entry fee per submission is \$15. If you wish to have your submission critiqued, please request this on the entry form. Entry fees are used to pay judges and prize money.

NWA SHORT STORY CONTEST FORM

To: NWA Short Story Contest  
National Writers Assn.  
10940 S. Parker Rd. #508  
Parker, CO 80134

Entry # \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Amt \_\_\_\_\_  
RP \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ N

Please enter the enclosed entry (title) \_\_\_\_\_ in the NWA Short Story Contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ My entry fee \$15 is enclosed.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ You may retain my submission for a critique after judging. I am enclosing \$5 per thousand words for critique.

**NWA NOVEL  
CONTEST**

OPENS December annually

**PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST:**

The purpose of the National Writers Assn. Novel Contest is to encourage the development of creative skills, recognize and reward outstanding ability in the area of novel writing.

**CONTEST RULES:**

Any genre or category of novel manuscript may be entered. All entries must be postmarked by April 1. Only unpublished works may be submitted. All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, in the English language. Maximum length is 100,000 words. Those unsure of proper manuscript format should request Research Report #35.

The entry must be accompanied by entry form (photocopies are acceptable), entry fee of \$35 per submission, and return SASE if you wish the material and rating sheets returned. **SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE RETURNED WITHOUT SASE.** The U.S. Postal Service will not allow us to use your metered postage unless it is undated. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged without a return postcard. Author's name and address must appear on the first page. Entries remain the property of the author and may be submitted during the contest as long as they are not published before the final announcement of winners.

**JUDGING AND PRIZES**

Judging will be based on originality, marketability, research, and reader interest. Copies of the judges evaluation sheets will be sent to entrants furnishing an SASE with their entry. First through fifth place awards will be announced in August. 1st Prize -- \$500 and possible representation; 2nd Prize -- \$250; 3rd Prize -- \$150; 4th through 10th places will receive a book of the winner's choice. Honorable Mentions receive a certificate.

**ENTRY FEE AND CRITIQUES**

The entry fee per submission is \$35. If you wish to have your submission critiqued, please request this on the entry form. Entry fees are used to pay judges and prize money.

National Writers Assn.  
10940 S. Parker Rd. #508  
Parker, CO 80134

Entry # \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
RP \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter the enclosed entry (title) \_\_\_\_\_ in the NWA Novel Contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ My entry fee \$35 is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ You may retain my submission for a critique after judging. I am enclosing an additional \$1 per page for a critique.

## **AUTHORSHIP GUIDELINES**

**PURPOSE:** Authorship magazine is the “in-house” publication for the National Writers Assn. It is read by thousands of members on a quarterly basis. Currently the magazine is a 10 to 241 page publication with a four color cover.

**SCOPE:** Articles submitted for consideration to Authorship should have a writing slant. Material should deal with writing “how-to’s” or current market trends. We are overstocked on inspirational “How I became a successful writer...” type material and will not be interested in any of these articles. Articles slanted toward aspects of fiction—creating characters, setting scenes, etc. are of interest and will be our primary interest. Humor is a plus — writing is serious enough without a totally serious article.

We do not accept fiction. Poetry is published in our winter issue, if it has a writing theme.

**SUBMISSIONS:** All submissions should be in standard manuscript format, approximately 1,250 to 1,500 words, accompanied by an SASE if the material is to be returned. Authorship uses AP style with the exception of state abbreviations. If the author is not aware of proper manuscript format, they should request NWA RR#35 prior to submitting. Manuscripts accepted for publication will be requested via e-mail in Microsoft Word format in text files with line breaks. NO tabs, fancy fonts, bullets, charts, or tables. If charts or tables are necessary, submit them like art work. Electronic files will be given preferred treatment as this prevents typos in final copy.

Sharp clear photos of article authors will be requested if material is accepted.

**PAYMENT:** We are currently paying \$10 honorarium per article or a \$10 reduction on membership dues.

