

Making Money  
Writing while  
Writing Your  
Opus

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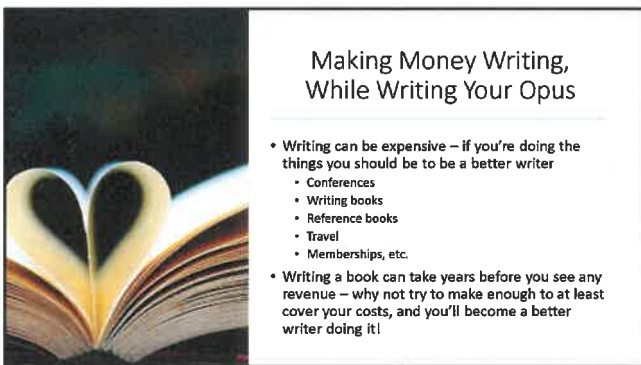
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Making Money Writing,  
While Writing Your Opus

- Writing can be expensive – if you’re doing the things you should be to be a better writer
  - Conferences
  - Writing books
  - Reference books
  - Travel
  - Memberships, etc.
- Writing a book can take years before you see any revenue – why not try to make enough to at least cover your costs, and you’ll become a better writer doing it!

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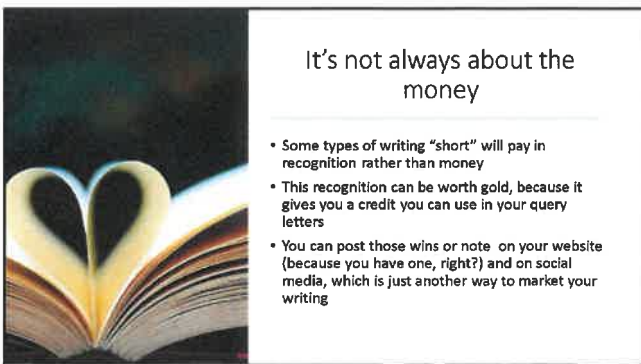
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It’s not always about the  
money

- Some types of writing “short” will pay in recognition rather than money
- This recognition can be worth gold, because it gives you a credit you can use in your query letters
- You can post those wins or note on your website (because you have one, right?) and on social media, which is just another way to market your writing

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### Writing Articles for Magazines or other periodicals

- Before you start writing, read multiple issues of the magazine to get a feel for what their articles are about, how long, etc.
- The library has back copies of a lot of the major periodicals
- You can Google the magazine and find their website – most will have their submission guidelines or info on how to submit to them on the site

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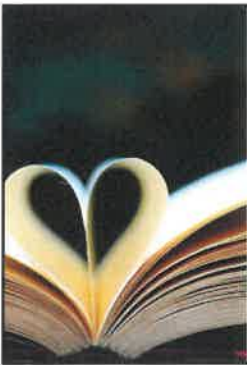
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### Why don't all writers do this?

- If you are uncomfortable talking to strangers and asking them questions, it might not be for you
- If you're not organized or disciplined enough to meet deadlines and keep track of your submissions and expenses, it might not be for you
- If you don't want to have to deal with 1099s from your publishers and having a business schedule on your tax returns, it might not be for you
- If you think you DON'T have to follow submission guidelines, it definitely isn't for you

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### Where do you start?

- This is like someone asking: Where do you get your ideas from?
- Do you have a hobby
- Are you an animal lover
- Do you have kids
- Are you an expert in anything
- Do you have a quirky sense of humor
- Do you watch a lot of history channel, military channel, Discovery channel, etc.
- Do you travel for fun or work

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### Submission Guidelines

- THESE ARE NOT A PIRATE CODE – these are the LAW
- If you don't follow the guidelines you have pretty much ZERO chance of being published
- Don't use a generic "to whom it may concern" type of query letter
- Track what you sent, when you sent it, and when you could expect to hear from them or assume they're not interested

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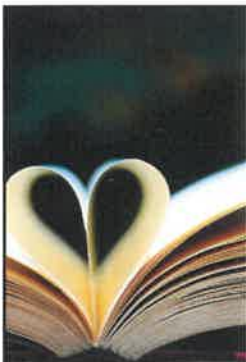
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### Sample Guideline

- Submit no more than 1500 words
- Submissions from Western Colorado writers only
- No cutesy typefaces
- Submit fiction via mail to xxx (get this right, including any names)
- Electronic submissions will not be considered (this is unusual these days)
- Include a cover page with the following: Your name as you would like it to appear in print, legal name, mailing address, phone number, email address, word count and title of attached submission
- Include a biography of no more than 50 words
- Staple all materials together
- We publish writing that is equivalent to a "G" or "PG" movie rating
- We pay \$75 per published fiction story at this time; however, payment can take up to six months

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### Contests

- This is a cost – so the higher the entry fee is, the more you'll have to get out of it to offset that cost
- Are you investing in a critique, and if so, make sure the contest rules make it sound like you'll get your money's worth
- Follow the GUIDELINES – always
- Get the most bang for the buck you can – how many pages do you submit, are the judges someone who might buy your work later?

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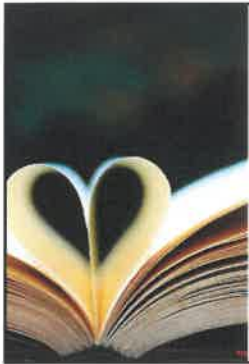
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### Short Stories/ Poetry/Anthologies

- Make sure what you're submitting meets what they want
- Make sure it's as polished as possible – they don't do a lot of editing (or ANY)
- FOLLOW THE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (do you sense a pattern here?)
- Writer's Market is a great place to look (I have some of the books here if you want to look at them)
- Payment may be money, or recognition

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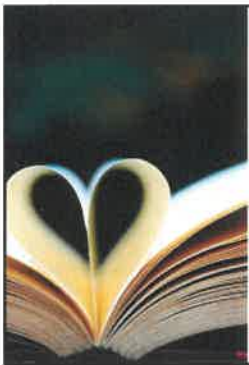
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### Speaking Engagements/ Workshops

- Especially works well if you are an "expert" in a field
- This is where a strong on-line presence will help (blog, website, etc.)
- Be creative when looking for where you could speak – don't just look at the low-hanging fruit
- Start local, and work your way up
- LinkedIn, friends, family are great resources

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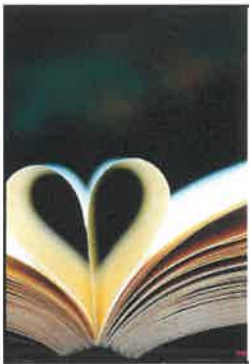
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### Other Options to Make Money Writing

- Company manuals
- Resumes
- Blogging
- Ghostwriting
- Reviewing books/movies (watch out for scams!)
- Write grants (only if you know what you're doing – non-profits need the money)
- Apply for a grant/fellowship/residency
- Freelance (Fivver, etc.)
- Be a copywriter (not the same as copyright)
- Song lyrics
- CrowdFunding

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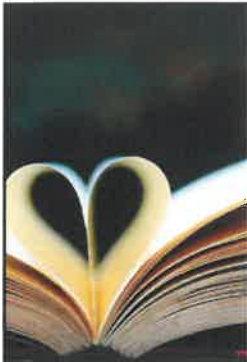
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### Resources

- Writer's Digest
- Writers market
- The Library and the Librarians
- Google
- Think outside the box!

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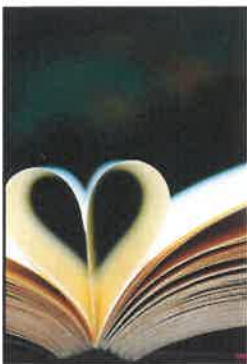
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### Tracking Your Submissions

- Excel spreadsheet is easy and updatable
- Who you sent to (publication)
- Specific name (if you have one)
- What you sent (make sure if you have multiple versions of the same article you know for SURE which one you sent)
- Where you sent it (address/email, etc.)
- When you should follow up or give up
- Result (sold, rejected, no response)
- Any fee, etc. you got (amount, when, how/check, auto deposit, etc.), the publisher's TAX ID #, etc.
- Any costs you incurred (postage, printing, travel, etc.)

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