

## The Basics

After the initial creative rush subsides and a first time writer looks back at their debut work with a feeling of satisfaction, awe, and self-admiration for having created something to share with others, they have to decide what the next step is.

Steeped with the expectation that readers will enjoy their work, a new-to-the-craft writer must decide whether this new interest is a hobby to share with friends and family, or if they want to take their writing to a professional level. Each decision process is unique: amount of time available to dedicate to writing; their typical follow-through on new interests; whether they need immediate gratification or can they work toward a long term goal; and many more considerations.

Professional writing, as any other professional endeavor, requires a steadfast commitment to learn the craft and to be disciplined to follow through with an industry-standard product. The writing has to have marketability. The writing has to have worthiness; by that I mean that there has to be a discernible skill demonstrated. The writer has to understand the industry.

Writers write. There is no such thing as writer's block for a professional writer. There is a deadline to meet, a product to produce, and a quality requirement to reach. That is what professionals do.

The beginning writer has to review basic grammar and punctuation rules. The reality is that when a work is submitted to a literary agent or an editor, they will notice weak skills. It is clearly obvious when the wrong homophone is used (there, their, they're) that the work is amateurish.

Learn or relearn the parts of speech and the basic punctuation rules. Writers write right.