

WRITERS IN THE SKY

Newsletter



Whether you are a published author or a writer-wanna-be, this e-zine is for you. Here, you will find articles about all types of writing, publishing, and book marketing; plus we feature articles written by our readers. Our goal is to connect the writing and publishing community through networking that benefits both. Brought to you by Write On! Creative Writing Services.

Volume 3 ~ Issue 3

AUTHOR'S CORNER BY YVONNE PERRY

Oh, where, oh, where has the warm weather gone? Oh, where, oh, where could it be?

I don't know about the rest of you but I'm finished with winter and it can go away now! Bring on the flowers, sunshine and warm temperatures.

I have made progress while hiding in my winter cave. My manuscript for *Right to Recover: Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America* is in the facts-checking stage and will go to the copy editor at Nightengale Press by mid-March. The pub date is set for late summer 2007. Thanks to all of you who participated in last month's stem cell survey. Your anonymous comments will be in my book.

Those who enjoy a contest will want to know about the \$100 cash prize I am giving as the Write On! Award for the Best Creative Writing of the Year. I have joined Irene Watson with Reader Views for her annual literary awards and encourage you to submit your work to her. For a complete list of Reader Views contests, see <http://www.readerviews.com/Awards.html>.

Writers in the Sky Podcast has some exciting guests in March. Barbara Joe-Williams from Amani Publishing will be talking about publishing for African-American writers. Novelist Gigi Minor will discuss her book "The Fallen" on March 9th and Devra Ann Jacobs of Mystic Pop Magazine will be my guest on March 16. Then, I will begin a set of interviews with authors who are working with Author's Marketing Experts (AME) to promote their books. On March 23rd I'll have CEO Penny Sansevieri and G. D. Baum, the author of "Point and Shoot". Mary E. Martin will join me on March 30, 2007 to talk about her book "Final Paradox".

Suzanne Lieurance and I are enjoying facilitating Writers on Call—our weekly writing teleclasses. We have 16 participants who call in to listen and discuss the topic of the week. I am giving an 8-week course on "How to Write a Book" which has been well-attended. Suzanne has been focusing on marketing and driving traffic to our blogs. These are very informative classes with interactive coaching included. If you are interested in learning more about the classes or obtaining the audio recordings of the sessions, please see www.yvonneperry.net/writersoncall.html.

We have some great articles, poems and book reviews this month. I look to see more of you submitting pieces for the NETWORK WITH US section next month. Surely there are contests, accomplishments or upcoming events you'd like this writing community to know about. I love to hear from my subscribers so please stay in touch!

Yvonne Perry

Yvonne Perry is a freelance writer and the owner of Write On! Creative Writing Services. She is a graduate of American Institute of Holistic Theology where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Metaphysics. She began her full-time writing career in 2003 and has since written more than twenty books.



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In This Issue

- AUTHOR'S CORNER BY YVONNE PERRY
- 5 Tips for Writers to Overcome Procrastination and Increase Productivity
- My Imaginary Friends: Article 1 in a Series Written by Mary E. Martin
- A PLACE TO SHOWCASE YOUR BOOK
- Writers in the Sky Podcast
- MY LIFE, MY SICKNESS: A Reflection
- Poetry Corner
- Breaking into Freelance Writing
- Writers On Call
- Blind, Disabled Writer Successfully Publishes Own Books Through Lulu
- NETWORK WITH US
- Word of Month
- The Writing Life by JJ Murphy: A Regular Column in WITS Newsletter
- Past Issues of Writers in the Sky Newsletter

5 Tips for Writers to Overcome Procrastination and Increase Productivity

By Kate Garvey

Being busy and productive are not the same. Like most self-employed people, I've had my struggles with procrastination and times when I'm not productive. Often I find the things that matter the most get pushed aside by things far less important. Rather than looking for new opportunities to make money, I'm filing phone numbers or having a lengthy conversation with someone I could have emailed. This year I've decided to increase productivity and actually plan on working less. So far, it's working. Here are a few tips that have helped.

1. Clean your desk. Like most full-time writers, my office is inundated with books, magazines, scraps of papers, articles, reference manuals, and all the tools of the trade. Disorganization comes naturally to me and the thought of cleaning my entire office can cause body spasms. However, having a clean desk encourages me to work and allows me to focus on my next article. The first time I cleaned my desk, I did it by stacking all my papers on the floor behind me. Even if you need to take everything off your desk and put it in a bag or another room, give yourself a clean place to work. Once you've done this it's much easier to focus on what really matters and consider what you really need in your office and on your desk.

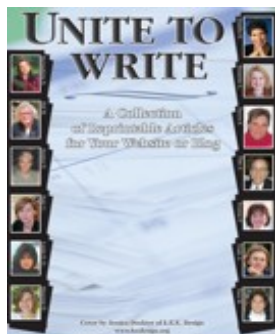
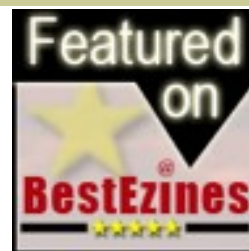
2. Break things down in small steps. Whether you're writing a book or sending out your first query letter, it's easy to get emotionally overwhelmed by a potentially large event or future project. However, books can only be written one word at a time. If you're sending out a query letter, all your doing is send out a query letter, you don't need to be thinking about what will happen if or when someone accepts your proposal. Instead, focus on writing the best query letter possible.
3. Work in half-hour segments. This tip came from the wonderful book, "Overcoming Procrastination" by Neil Fiore. Dr. Fiore recommends learning to work in short uninterrupted half-hour time segments. You focus on only working one half-hour. During your working half-hour you cannot answer the phone, go to the bathroom, check the mail or get a drink of water. If you do, it doesn't count. At the end of each half hour work segment, take a break. His belief is that most people can do anything for a half hour. This has helped me increase productive tremendously. When I make a half-hour commitment to something, whether its working on my book, an article or cleaning my house, I accomplish a great deal and usually can keep working for a much longer period. I'm also less frustrated in my life, because I'm able to focus.
4. Make lists and use them to keep you on track. Yvonne Perry creates a list of weekly goals. This is an excellent idea to help you keep on track and help you focus on what is important rather than what seems like its important. In addition to maintaining weekly goals, I've started keeping a very short daily list on my desk. There is so much in life that can distract us from what we really want to accomplish. Having a short list I can glance at every day helps me refocus whenever I get distracted.
5. Network or have an accountability partner. Belonging to a writers group or coop is a wonderful way to grow your business. Ironically, getting to know and helping your "competition" is one of the smartest things you can do for your own business. I love to write about a variety of topics. However, there are topics that do not appeal to me. Knowing another writer who specializes or enjoys that topic is a way I can help my client and another writer. In turn, I've received writing jobs when another writer had a request for an article within my areas of expertise. Prior to being a full time freelance writer, my friend Susan (a visual artist) and I became accountability partners. Once a week we would talk on the phone and tell each other our weekly goals. The following week we would report in, and support each other with love, compassion, and an occasional kick in the butt. We both benefited from this experience.

There's a saying used in 12 step programs..."progress not perfection". It's one of my favorite sayings. Keep this in mind as you increase productivity and overcome your procrastination.

Kate Garvey is a member of the Write On Creative Writing Services team of writers. She has also accepted the New Year's Article Challenge and has a goal of writing 30 articles before March 31, 2007. Read more about Kate at http://www.yvonneperry.net/Meet-the-Writers.htm#Kate_Garvey.

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If you have written a review of this newsletter or subscribed to the RSS Feed for Writers in the Sky Podcast please [let me know](#). I will email you a F*REE eBook, Unite to Write a collection of Reprintable Articles for your Web site or Blog.

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My Imaginary Friends: Article 1 in a Series Written by Mary E. Martin

Ever wonder why so many lawyers write novels? And very successful ones at that?

Just think of John Grisham and Scott Turow, both of whom have written exciting, entertaining stories that grab hold of us until the very last page.

Both men have had active legal careers in the criminal courts. Every day, they have dealt [literally] with life and death issues. Every day, they have witnessed the brutal effects of crime upon victims, families and upon the lives of the perpetrators and their families.

Often crime is a matter of fiery emotion erupting into the apparent 'normality' of everyday life. The law tries hard and does much to maintain that ordered calm. Yet, while we prize that peaceful vision, every one is tantalized by the prospect of what lies beneath it. The eruption of its opposite fascinates us. 'Madness' we call it. Of course, it exists in others but never in us, so far as we are aware.

Now put a lawyer into the situation where he or she is dealing with these highly emotional stakes and is at the same time trying to maintain some sort of order. What effect does this exposure have on a human being? Of course, it can lead to burn out or the choice of another occupation. Some lawyers harden themselves and just get on with the job and hide the effects upon themselves in some dark dungeon of the psyche.

Other lawyers see this as an opportunity and undoubtedly, it fulfills a need. In fact, law practice gives him or her a wonderful window on humanity. Every day, the lawyer deals with murder, theft and fraud. He sees the worst of human nature and strives to find the best and achieve a balance. How can that lawyer not think about and comment upon that? How can she not draw conclusions from what she experiences and learns from such dramatic situations?

Most of us go from day to day in the 'normal' tangible world, acting as if that is all which exists. We have our families, our houses and our cars. We go to the office, the mall, the movies and out to restaurants. But deep down, we recognize, somewhere in us, that there is much more to life and human nature than meets the eye. Every day, the newspaper tells us so. Frequently, we read that last night, a man raped an elderly woman and stole ten dollars from her purse and a mother took the life of her child. There must be a whole other dimension to life, but not ours.

I like to think that there is much more to human life than meets the eye. Joseph Campbell, an author [a mythologist, not a novelist] whom I greatly admire said that, "The latest incarnation of Oedipus, the continued romance of Beauty and the Beast, stands this afternoon on the corner of Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue, waiting for the traffic light to change." (*The Power of Myth, Joseph Campbell, with Bill Moyers, Anchor Books, A Division of Random House Inc., 1991, Editors note.*)

Oedipus? You know, the one who lent his name to the mother complex. What on earth could Campbell have meant? Simply this: that each and every one of us [whether or not we are conscious of it] is acting out all the great mythological themes and dramas in our lives. And lawyers have a front row seat on the action. How could they not write about it? Such work is tremendously popular because we like to glimpse that side of human nature from the safety of an armchair.

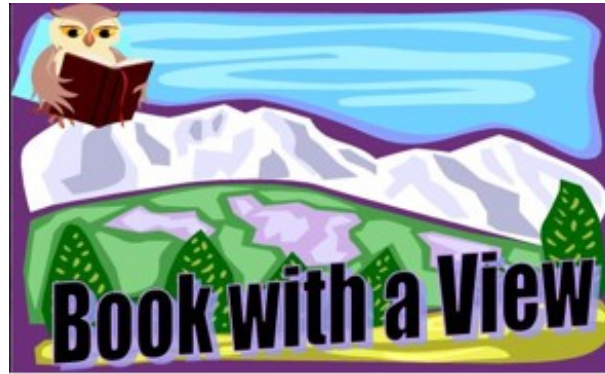
Now, I am just an estates lawyer. I have never had a murder or rape trial. But, in my practice I have seen the inmost workings of families. For example, when a parent dies, I have learned that there is often far more at work than just a tidy accounting. In other cases, I have seen almost every variation upon elder abuse, whether it is physical, financial or emotional. This is another form of murder or rape.

An estate lawyer is witness to and participant in every conceivable human relationship and interaction at a highly volatile time. And so, that has been my window on the world and the inspiration for three novels: *Conduct in Question, Final Paradox and A Trial of One*, all part of the *Osgoode Trilogy*, in which I like to explore the effects of this dark side of humanity on Harry Jenkins, a decent man who strives for balance.

Who is Harry? He is an estates lawyer and the protagonist of the trilogy, in which there's plenty of murder and fraud in estate distribution. Indeed, I've thrown plenty of questions at him, such as how much money is enough? Can love and forgiveness be found amid fraud and deceit and must you be selfless to be compassionate?

And so, the question is really, how can a lawyer not be inspired to write especially when he or she is witness to so much of human relations?

Mary E. Martin grew up in Toronto where she began practicing law in a small estates firm. In 1999, she became a full-time writer and photographer. Married in 1973, she and her husband live in Toronto and have three adult children.



A PLACE TO SHOWCASE YOUR BOOK

This month we have several book reviews from Author's Marketing Experts. I will be interviewing some of these authors on upcoming shows for Writers in the Sky Podcast.

The Dream Factory

by Heather Hepler and Brad Barkley

<http://www.bradheather.com>

This newest Young Adult novel from the writing team of Hepler and Barkley tells the story of a group of kids hired as replacement cast members during a workers' strike at Disney World. Overnight, an ice-cream scooper becomes Prince Charming, Robin Hood shows his true (obnoxious) colors, and an unlikely friendship develops between Cinderella and Dale (as in Chip and...).

Along the way are late-night parties where the Merry Men play quarters, trespassing in Cinderella's castle, a nacho-eating villain, egg-throwing strikers, and a chipmunk decapitation. What happens in Fantasyland stays in Fantasyland...

The Velvet Hammer, Powerful Leadership Lessons for Women Who Don't Golf

by Elaine Allison

<http://thevelvethammer.com/>

If you saw *The Devil Wears Prada*, you'll understand why *The Velvet Hammer* is such a critical read for women who want to succeed in leadership roles. As author Elaine Allison has said, the Meryl Streep character in *The Devil Wears Prada* book and movie is a great example of the male-behaving female leader who is highly successful but alienates everyone on her own team.

This book helps every woman who wants to be a successful leader achieve their goal, without mimicking male leadership models.

The Velvet Hammer challenges women leaders to explore why and how they must lead differently than men. Using real life stories, examples and assessments, this fascinating book shows women how to be decisive and diplomatic, confident and compassionate, strong and supportive in any leadership role

Embracing Change: Transforming Life's Changes with Courage and Grace

by David Malin

<http://www.embracingchange.com>

In this book, Malin offers readers a refreshing new paradigm for understanding themselves. This humorous, easy-to-read guide includes specific ideas about how to deal with difficult transitions and life changes.

Embracing Change uses stories, creative metaphor, and wit to help people who are struggling with change; whether it is the transition to college or into the workplace, the challenging joy of having children, or learning to embrace retirement.

Each chapter can be read on its own, or returned to later, revealing new insights to readers at different stages in their lives. The book's fresh perspective will enable readers who are familiar with principles of self-reflection and self-healing to make new discoveries.

Cyber Lies, When Finding the Truth Matters

by John Lucich

www.cyberlies.com

Men and women cheat on their spouses at an alarming rate. Research shows that between 52 and 73 % of people are in a relationship with a cheater.

How do you find out if you are one of them? Do you know or suspect you are, but cannot prove it? Cyber Lies, By John Lucich, is your expert guide to get access to hidden and, until now, out or reach technical information that reveals what you need to know. (Dr. Luanne Linquist, MFT, MCC)

Cyber Lies was written for the spouse or parent who has limited knowledge of computers. It places the power of computer forensics in your hands, which will enable you to access and review data stored on computers or cell phones. Cyber Lies will educate and empower people to find the truth.

The Laws of Thinking, 20 Secrets to Using the Divine Power of Your Mind to Manifest Prosperity

by E. Bernard Jordan

www.bishopjordan.com

Have you caught the two Oprah shows on The Secret? If you have, you'll definitely be interested in The Laws of Thinking. This book details more than just the power of positive thinking—it delves into all of the divine laws that make prosperity manifestation possible, including the laws of attraction, risk, mind, humility, planning, and money.

Bishop Jordan has authored more than 40 books, and is among a handful of technology-savvy religious figures who use podcasts and streaming video to reach his large congregation. He has also been on national TV, and is anxious to be interviewed about this book. If you'd like to do an interview please let me know; has available either as an e-mail or on-phone interview.

Winning or Losing the Financial and Retirement Race

by Robert Lamoreaux, JD.

<http://www.winningorlosing.com>

The author is a successful attorney who has specialized in estate and financial planning throughout his career. Winning or Losing is a guide he created to help prepare readers with the information needed to secure a financial future.

With all of the issues surrounding Social Security, Lamoreaux book is becoming a must-read for anyone who wants to retire with a financially secure future. Among the topics covered are money management, investing, taxes, insurance, and assisted living.

Fort is one of the judges on a British TV show similar to our Top Chef.

Rich by Choice

by Erlend Peterson

<http://www.petersonmoneybooks-rich.com/>

Building your riches, your financial independence, is not as hard as most people imagine. When you know how money works, you see that accumulating money is a simple process and easy to work with. Investing money and portfolio strategies are discussed thoroughly. There are many routes to success.

Becoming rich is a process that takes time. You can start at any time, and obviously the sooner you start the more you will have. The first step is to start investing money out of every paycheck. Tax deferred retirement plans or IRAs are ideal for this. Taxes are an expense; tax advice and planning can minimize taxes. Investment strategies and insurance needs are covered. College funding, retirement income planning and estate plans are all discussed thoroughly.



[Writers in the Sky Podcast](#) offers interviews with authors and writers, as well as the latest news about books on the market, publishing methods and marketing techniques. There are more than 35 informational shows already uploaded and a new program is added each week.

Occasionally, a teleclass may be longer, but most of our classes are recorded in 15- to 20-minute segments you may listen to while traveling, cleaning the house, waxing the car, exercising, etc.

Many of the guests on the show also contribute informative articles and announcements to this monthly newsletter offered by [Write On! Creative Writing Services](#). The best part is there is no cost to listen and it is a great way to learn more about writing and publishing.

To [Sign up for the RSS Feed](#) go to <http://www.yvonneperry.blogspot.com/> and put your email address in the “subscribe me” box on the right sidebar. You will get some great information about writing and publishing and you’ll never have to worry about missing a podcast show you wanted to hear.

MY LIFE, MY SICKNESS: A Reflection

By Ruth Cohen

I vowed to tell my story to the world because I want to help people. This may sound very ambitious and maybe extravagant; after all I did not know I could write. English is my third language, and I don’t consider myself a writer. However, without the help of a psychologist, and during an active period of hypomania moods that lasted five years I wrote a book titled “Remains of a Cloud” (To be published summer 2007).

My soul was persecuted by a horrible sickness –bipolar disorder. The illness destroyed and corrupted my soul slowly, without making any noise. I was not aware of it until I reached a point where I no longer recognized myself. Mine is a long, painful and real story. Only after a long nightmare, did I see the true colors of my life.

I was born in Tunisia in 1944 with strong coping genes from my dad. When I was six or seven years old I started became disturbed by my mother’s strange behavior and depressive episodes. Later, I became clinically depressed and constantly grinded a black cloud. I did not connect my symptoms with any sickness and certainly not with that of my mother.

A few years later I married a French man who suffered from anxiety. We had no emotional communication. He had two direct cousins suffering from epilepsy and his mom suffered from major anxiety. Anxiety and bipolar illness are not a good fit.

After the birth of my first son, I fell into a major depression, and with it the skies fell on me. I lost much of my intellect and could not read or write. I ignored my fears and brutal suffering. I received many therapies and took medicine but nothing helped. I went from bad to worse until I was finally diagnosed as a bipolar more than twenty-five years after the start of my sickness. Then, I ran after the best doctors in the U.S.A and spent countless hours in psychotherapy trying to clean my soul and restore my intellect.

Bipolar disorder is a recurrent sickness where the universe becomes a hopeless maze. It took me thirty years of suffering before I found the help I needed. Some people never get out of their bipolar maze and some commit suicide. After all that has happened to me, I can say with all confidence that bipolar people should not be neglected. Bipolar biology does everything to confuse the patient. They need sound-minded people around them. To all those with bipolar disorder, I encourage you to be strong and of good courage.

I divorced three years ago and moved to Israel. My life has changed drastically and I am amazed how my soul once so polluted by the impact of the sickness, became my shiny inner world.

Bipolar disorder is ugly but it has enriched my life. My suffering has not been in vain. My sickness with its intense suffering brought me a clearer mind than I had before.



ROSARY BEADS

In the dark of the night
sleep is gone.

Awake and alone my fingers
feel my rosary beads.

What must the Blessed Virgin have
thought when asked to bear the son
of God?

Was she honored
or afraid?

What about Jesus when asked to
come here as a baby, grow up and
die for you and I?

I thank them for their pain for
you and me, praise them in
honor and glory.

I move my beads through my
fingers, one by one, praying
for you and I.

Dawn lights the sky.

Gail Livesay is fifty-six years old and lives in Berea, Kentucky with her husband Wayne. They have two children and two grandchildren. She considers her love of writing a gift from God.

Author

Architect of literary concept and word; purveyor of adventure.
Utilizing characters, dialogue and circumstance to sustain a
Theme and construct a plot intended to reward readers while
Honoring the commercial expectations of the publisher and
Orchestrating, whenever possible, successive compositions that captivate
Readers and inspire followers.

Freelance

Facing at times a dry spell and at others a torrent, we
Relish the opportunity to proudly market our skills and
Exercise our talents,
Exchanging our abilities for a fee.
Loving our chosen vocation
And the freedom afforded by it,
Novice and expert alike, we seek to refine our
Craft through determined efforts employed in the pursuit of
Excellence

Novelist

Nightfall appears, it is a night much like any other night.
Once again I find myself alone, one-on-one with this latest release.
Voracious is my appetite for the next installment; my curiosity soon will be quenched.
Early, quickly the plot evolves. I am drawn in. The captivating and
Lavish settings, the intriguing characters and their risk filled exploits... wait.
I'm no stranger to this place. This is familiar. I've been here before.
Somehow again, I've been transported to that place
That captivating place where I am the witness.

Mentor

Many find that desire, competency and
Even commitment are all insufficient to allow us to easily
Navigate the early minefields of this arduous profession.
Therefore, someone with expertise and a willingness to guide
Others on their individual journeys can bring high value.
Recognition and gratitude go out to Yvonne Perry and "Writers in the Sky".

Ken is a native Middle Tennessean, growing up in Nashville. A graduate of MTSU and resident of Murfreesboro, Ken has been a distribution manager for over 25 years. An avid reader of novels as well as business articles and books, he has admired writers and their work for years and desires to experience the joy of creating literary work of his own.

Yes I Knew

Honeysuckle Spring
That Bah Bing Sweet Smelling
Good Time Thing
Color Coded Bugs Flapping Let's Party Wings
Touristy Lovers Those Flocking Birds
Set Their Nests
For New Born Guests
Abundance Roars
When It Rains It Pours
Dogwoods Light The Floors
In Godly Moors
Peachy Kind What A Find
Apple's Got Green In Mind
Branches Dancing Buds Are Blind
Wind Is Whispering Now Your Mine
Red Bud Kisses Magic Vines
Azalea Blooms With Red And White
Cardinal Chirps Love's My Flight
Ajuga Blue Springtime Flu

Yes I Knew
What I See Is Me
Finally Seeing You

*Hal Manogue is the author of The 2007 Collection of Short Sleeves A Book For Friends
ISBN# 09778130-1-0 available in bookstores and on his website:
<http://www.shortsleeves.net/>. Hal invites you to blog with him at
<http://halmanogue.blogspot.com/> To read articles Hal has written see
http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Hal_Manogue.*

The Old Way Down

He went the old way down,
Tired and indifferent to the world around him,
Which in its ferocity, clawed desperately for change -
Regardless of its value, or its reason -
Only for the movement of it all.
Yet he clung rightfully to what was his,
In all its plain simplicity.
Knowing that his years
Estranged him from those of younger age -
Who in their confidence and rage,
Tore the known world from him -
And smothered him with deceit.
They knew not the value of honesty, and integrity,
And those little things which make a small life great.

He had prepared himself for these times
By the hardening of his heart,
And the strengthening of his will.
He looked at life through worldly eyes -
Some say jaded. . .but he was not as sophisticated as that.
He found himself, on those sunny days,
When the shadows play just right
Upon the grass and leaves and water and barns -
To thinking back upon his youth,
With all the carefree joy that it imposed,
On what was left of vivid memory:
The ambiance of sight and sound and smell and weather...
These things that left him with the knowledge
That he had lived when times were good -
And these thoughts had spun a gentle web of warmth
Around his heart -
Making it easy to let go.

Bewick Cory Cedar Hill, TN

The Extra Weight of Walking

The extra weight of walking,
Makes it hard to coincide -
With the sky above; the mud below,
And the swiftness of the tide.

The extra weight of walking,

Makes me want to stop and rest.
The burdens of so many years,
Sits like an anvil upon my chest.

The extra weight of walking,
Turns a smile into a frown.
Muscle vs. gravity -
As it works to pull me down.

Each day as I grow older,
Slowly losing to the fight,
My back is bent by nature's law -
Until the day I see the light.

And to the young, who seem invincible -
Who hold their heads so high...
The extra weight of walking,
Will get them by and by.

Bewick Cory, born in the Netherlands and raised in Maine, currently lives in Cedar Hill, TN . He has played drums for touring bands and was Associate Editor of What's New Magazine, a music publication out of Boston, Massachusetts in the mid-seventies. Bewick wrote a monthly "fictional commentary" piece for Reality & the Market Place, a literary magazine out of Framingham, Massachusetts, and has had many poems and short stories published in various magazines. Currently "shopping around" with a book titled: Buck Snort -The Movie (The Northern Tribes) Bewick hopes to find a publisher willing to accept this book about a spiritual journey through the heart of Buck Snort, where fact and fiction become one in the endless circle of life.

SLEEP

Sleep lies in some galaxy
For people with clear conscience
For people who don't have to think
For people with no problems.

Sleep lingers out in space
Waiting for one moment
Waiting for a peaceful face
Waiting to be stolen.

Sleep loves to taunt and tease
Like a drug it holds the power
Like death over a zombie
Persisting through each hour.

Sleep likes to rest upon my eyes
Out of nowhere it comes creeping
Peace seeps in and I drift out
And suddenly I'm...

Suzanne Karr moved to Nashville five years ago to pursue her music dream. She has written her own songs & is currently finishing an album. You can listen to a few of her tunes at www.myspace.com/suzannekarr. She is also a Realtor with Crye-Leike. For all of your real estate needs, e-mail Suzanne at suzanne.karr@crye-leike.com.

This is my Life

The night winds rain down beating my senses dry.

I'm lost and alone in a barren oblivion;
Wandering blindly, seeking a common ground.
Peace knows no sanctity here.
My essence blatantly beaten against the tides,
This is my life.

February 3, 2007

Danielle Sharp is a twenty-four year old aspiring author. She has been writing poems since the early 1990's—many of them based on her true encounters. Danielle lives in Michigan with her wonderful husband of three years.

Breaking into Freelance Writing

By Trish Anderson

To break into freelance anything and make some money you will need three things;

1. Planning
2. Persistence
3. Commitment

In the world of freelance article writing, you will also need a strong desire to write. In fact, the stronger the better because with that comes everything else and, eventually, some money to make it all worth while.

For the freelance new kid, invest in some writing courses or workshops either online or with your local writing centre. Purchase a few books on writing articles and how to market them. Your country's version of Writer's Market is a handy resource. Read it with pen, paper and sticky notes beside you so that you can mark your targets.

Develop a list of article ideas. Write down every topic that you have a working interest or some knowledge in. Start with five ideas, produce a list of sub-headings, fill in some information [500 - 800 words], polish it all up and there you have your first bunch of articles.

Always check your work over for basic errors as well as the usual style and content readability. If you're not sure about your work, join an online critiquing group for some productive feedback. Remember to always give feedback in return as "payment" for the members' time and effort.

Start submitting your articles to any of the web-content sites. You won't get paid, but choose your site carefully and you will be marketing yourself. Articles from these sites go to other sites, usually with your bio/resource box attached. Once you have a collection of published articles that you're happy with, you can start using them as "clips" for submitting to paying markets. Clips are your C.V. and you will need them as you move into the wider world of freelance writing.

If you have a particular area of interest or expertise then make sure you produce plenty of related articles. This not only proves an ongoing ability to write in this field, but also helps to promote you as an "expert" in the area.

Talk yourself and your writing up at every opportunity. When meeting people be sure to introduce yourself as a writer. This usually is enough to gain the other person's attention and provide you the opportunity to talk about your work further. Introduce yourself in writing groups and provide your "business card" at the end of your e-mails. Wherever and whenever you can, tell people that you are a freelance writer.

Open your eyes to all possibilities. Freelance writing offers a broad spectrum of specialisations and services. Don't be afraid to explore new aspects of your career. For instance, most freelancers will tell you they not only write articles, but also e-books, fiction, non-fiction, ghostwrite, media releases, produce newsletters, tutor...

Breaking into freelancing requires grit, determination and a whole lot of planning! But with the necessary amounts of persistence and commitment, you can do it. Start small, develop your plan of attack and get writing!

Trish is a freelance writer with desktop publishing, promotional material, content sourcing, location and information research, fiction critique and web group management skills tucked firmly into her workbelt. To find out about rates and other services, or to read more of

her articles, visit Trish at <http://beginningsmiddleends.blogspot.com/> or send an email to wordcatcher@hotmail.com

Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Trish Anderson](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Trish_Anderson)



Writers on Call—a subscription-based weekly group teleclass for freelance writers

Writers on Call teleclasses take place every Thursday night at 7:00 (Central Time) and last for 55 minutes. Freelance writing coach Suzanne Lieurance facilitates the calls twice a month. Freelance writer Yvonne Perry takes over for the other two Thursday calls each month. All of the teleclasses are recorded, so even if subscribers can't attend the live calls they are given access to a link for the recorded call the next day and never have to miss a single teleclass. A great deal for only \$37 per month—that's less than \$10 per class!

Subscriptions to *Writers on Call* are available [HERE!](#)

Writers on Call offers writers and writer wannabes the chance to ask questions and receive coaching for:

- Promoting a freelance writing business
- Writing press releases and articles
- Finding lucrative writing opportunities
- Operating a successful freelance writing business
- Writing books, query letters, and publisher proposals

Writers on Call CDs Program is offered for only \$67 per month. With this program, subscribers receive access to the teleconferences, class handouts, a perma-link to the audios, and a snail-mailed CD containing the mp3 files of each month's calls.



Suzanne Lieurance, The Working Writer's Coach, is the author of 12 published books and numerous articles for magazines, newsletters, and newspapers. She was an instructor for the Institute of Children's Literature for over five years and has been a master teacher at www.universityofmasters.com. She is the author of two free eBooks: *Get Your Freelance Writing Career Off the Ground* and *Tricks of the Trade: Learn to Write for Children* which are available at <http://www.workingwriterscoach.com/>. Each weekday morning she publishes *The Morning Nudge*—a few words to inspire and motivate writers to get a little writing done each day.

Yvonne Perry is the owner of [Write On! Creative Writing Services](#) based in Nashville, Tennessee. She and her team of writers provide ghostwriting for articles, press releases, books, brochures, resumes, and much more. Perry is the host for [Writers in the Sky Podcasts](#), the publisher of a newsletter about writing and publishing, and the author of several books. Her latest book titled *Right to Recover: Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America* is set to be released in mid 2007 by Nightengale Press. For more information, visit her website at <http://www.yvonneperry.net/writersoncall.htm>

[Subscribe to Writers on Call Teleclasses or Writers on Call CD Program](#) and take your writing career to the next level!

Blind, Disabled Writer Successfully Publishes Own Books Through Lulu

By Shirley Cheng

Writing and publishing is a process that is both challenging and rewarding for most people, especially for those who are blind and physically disabled, and this is the case with me. Having lost my eyesight at the age of seventeen, I no longer could express myself in my artwork, so I turned to writing to share with others my imagined worlds and creations. I became an author at the age of twenty, completing three books within one year. I wrote my books using a screen reader (computer software) that reads what's on the screen and tells me which keys I type. It has great functionality that enables its users to use most computer programs with relative ease.

When I first started out as a professional writer, I was clueless to as what I should do to publish my books. I never heard about self-publishing or print-on-demand-technology, nor did I know that traditional publishing is not the route for everyone. I began by researching on the Internet and joining discussion e-mail groups consisted of writers, publishers, editors, and other professionals in the publishing world. I searched for publishers, and learned what to look for in a publisher. For my first book, I first published it with a small publisher who uses print-on-demand technology. It differs from many other print-on-demand publishers in that they review manuscripts in order to accept those of high quality for publication. I was thrilled when my book was accepted, and in a matter of a few months, it was published.

For my following two books, I decided to self-publish them through Lulu.com. Although Lulu.com is listed as the publisher since I bought my ISBNs through them, I still consider myself as a self-publisher, for I have completed every self-publishing task, including formatting my manuscripts, on my own without eyesight; I had to upload the formatted ready-to-publish pdf files onto Lulu's servers, set the binding type, color, specification, pricing, etc.. I also found editors and artists to design my covers.

Lulu.com primarily acts like a printer (you have to format your manuscript, make it ready to print, find editors/designers, etc.). Whenever I need more copies of my books, I simply order them through Lulu.com at the printing cost without any other fee. Lulu also fulfills my orders when people order my books through them or from Amazon.com and other booksellers, like brick-and-mortar bookstores.

I highly recommend Lulu for several reasons:

1. There are no contracts to sign; there is only the member agreement (the usual terms of service)
2. You retain full copyrights to your work
3. There are no fees to publish any work (but you have the option to buy one of the two ISBN services they offer)
4. You can make your books available through Ingram by purchasing their ISBN service, and it will in turn make your books available on Amazon.com and other major outlets; and bookstores and libraries have the ability to order and stock your book
5. Publishing is instant; after you upload your file onto Lulu's server and specify the options, your book is immediately published once you click on the last button at the end of the simple steps. Once it is published, it is immediately available for others to order through Lulu. (Getting listed on Amazon can take up to eight weeks.)
6. You can have the option of making your book available only to yourself through Lulu, so you can order a copy to make sure everything looks okay before making it available to the public
7. You can publish your books in different sizes and binding types (i.e. trade, textbook-sized, perfect, coiled, stitched)
8. You can use your own ISBN instead of theirs, so you will be the registered publisher of your work
9. Their printing quality is quite high, combined with paper of fine quality and glossy covers
10. 24/7 availability--you can publish, revise, and order your book anytime
11. You can revise your book anytime for an unlimited number of times, and it's free, unless you have their ISBN+ Distribution where you have to pay about \$80 for any revision

Publishing through Lulu has been a wonderful experience. Since I do everything myself, depending solely on a computer, and cannot travel to any printers, using Lulu's printing services have been a dream come true for me. Lulu, like any other company, is definitely not for everyone, but it is perfect for me.

*Shirley Cheng (b. 1983), a blind and physically disabled motivational speaker, poet, author and contributing author of twelve books, has had severe juvenile rheumatoid arthritis since infancy, and did not receive any form of education until age eleven. She mastered grade level in all areas after about 180 days of schooling in elementary school before she entered middle school. After a successful eye surgery, She hopes to earn multiple science doctorates from Harvard University. Despite her multiple disabilities, Shirley is living the life she loves and she empowers, inspires, and motivates others to do the same. Be inspired by her books, including *The Revelation of a Star's Endless Shine*, and her newsletter *Inspiration from a Blind*, to which you can subscribe via her site at <http://www.shirleycheng.com>*

Network with Us



Writers in the Sky Newsletter

Add your announcement or brag about your writing accomplishment. Tell us about your book or business. Share information and ideas or send articles or advertorial for the next issue to writer@yvonneperry.net. Remember, you may post a comment on my blog <http://yvonneperry.blogspot.com> anytime.

These are the E-nouncements from our readers this month:

CONTESTS:

The King/Lieurance New Year's Article Challenge is in full swing! Twenty-five writers from all over the world. are competing to write 30 articles each by the end of March 2007. Do you want to get in on the action? See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newyearsarticlechallenge/> for more information or to join the Yahoo group.

Those who enjoy a contest will want to know about the \$100 cash prize I am giving as the Write On! **Award for the Best Creative Writing of the Year**. I have joined Irene Watson with Reader Views for her annual literary awards and encourage you to submit your work.

Criteria: Must have original, imaginative and creative use of words that create vivid mental pictures of scenes and characters.

My award is not the only award being given. A complete list of contests being offered by Reader Views is available at <http://www.readerviews.com/Awards.html>.

Win a Weekend in London That Money Can't Buy

Author gives away exclusive and glamorous weekend in London to promote book

New York, New York – A weekend in London might not seem unique to many, but the weekend Richard Hains has planned for the winner of his “*Win a Weekend in London That Money Can't Buy Competition*,” *Chameleon*, is not one you'll find in any travel brochure. “I wanted a bold and innovative way to attract attention to my new novel,” says author Hains, who's one of London hottest bachelors and knows the nightclub and celebrity scene well. “Book signings seem very 1985 in this fast moving, commercial world.”

The contest, developed with his publishers, Beaufort Publishing in New York, was designed to raise the profile of *Chameleon*, his racy, award-winning new novel. “*Win a Weekend in London That Money Can't Buy Competition*” is the result, and no one knows London's fast lane better than Hains, a successful hedge fund manager, gold mine developer, and a man well known around the U.K. Recently profiled in an exclusive interview with *Tatler Magazine (Dec 2006)*, where he was *flatteringly and perhaps uniquely compared to James Bond, Jay Gatsby and Thomas Crown*, Hains is now opening up his fascinating world to one lucky winner.

To help promote the contest, Hains has also done a slick, funky music video filmed around the fabulous sites of London, which is already attracting attention. It can be viewed on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7geUpWUb04>) or on Hains' *Chameleon* web site (www.chameleonanovel.com). “In this day and age it doesn't seem enough simply to have a well-reviewed novel to attract any real attention to it,” says Hains.

Hains' contest is raising more than the book's profile, he's raising a few eyebrows in the publishing world as well. “Most contests lack real imagination,” cites Hains, “I accept that this is bold, but I wanted to give people something worth winning, a fun, exclusive weekend and a chance to step out of their lives, even for only a couple of days.”

Chameleon is an edgy, racy, fast-paced Wall Street thriller written by an insider who's spent a good piece of his life managing an intensely private hedge fund. "It is difficult to write a highly contemporary book about big money, high ambition and low morals without a solid thread of sex and drugs and rock and roll," says Hains. So will the weekend be as racy as the book? "No way, it's a pure fun weekend, with a dash of old-fashioned frivolity in one of the truly great cities of the world."

The contest includes an all-expense-paid roundtrip ticket to London from anywhere in the U.S., first class accommodation, a personal driver to take the lucky recipient to any of London's wonderful tourist sites or shopping spots during the day, and two evenings spent with one of London's fastest-moving bachelors at some of the finest restaurants and most fashionable clubs in London.

Chameleon has been recently optioned by the highly successful producers of the award-winning film, *Hotel Rwanda*. Hains has recently completed the final draft of the screenplay and the project is currently in pre-production. It will be formally launched at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

The contest will begin on Feb. 1, 2007 and the winner will be announced at Book Expo America in June 2007. So where does a playboy take a competition winner? "Everywhere." Hains smiles flirtatiously, "the hot spots, a combination of the new and the old. I hope," he adds, "that people will have fun with this. Sure, it's meant to promote the book, but more importantly, I wanted to have a good time with it."

Title: Chameleon
Genre: Fiction/Thriller
FMI: www.chameleonanovel.com
You Tube Clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7geUpWU04>

Author: Richard Hains
ISBN: 978-0825305108

DO YOU HAVE EBOOKS OR OTHER DOWNLOADABLE PRODUCTS FOR SALE?

Here's a publicity effort that will benefit you in return.

Dr. Eric Kaplan is doing a one-day Amazon BestSeller promotion for *DYING TO BE YOUNG: From Botox to Botulism—A True Story of Survival*. I edited this book for Eric and we formed a precious friendship during the process.

Eric has found that if he gives away a bunch of downloadable items, that have a value attached, he should be better able to get people to purchase his book (at the deflated Amazon price of \$13.95) on a particular date. If a thousand books are sold (and he's signing up people to buy 50 at a time) on that date, he will rate as an Amazon BestSeller --- and that can be used in all his PR.

Yvonne Perry is donating her eBook *More Than Meets the Eye: True Stories about Death, Dying, and Afterlife* as well as the mp3 file of an interview she conducted for her podcast. Eric's publisher, Valerie Connelly, is donating her eBook *Sacred Night* (\$13.95 value) and a teleseminar she taught with Maryglenn McCombs last summer (\$150 value).

Would you donate your eBook, musical piece an audio seminar, report, article, or any other downloadable product to which you own the copyright?

We all get the pleasure of sending the announcement to our email lists to let everyone know how they can get our eBook for free with a purchase of *DYING TO BE YOUNG* on a certain date (TBA).

HERE'S WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU: Everyone who purchases Eric's book that day will be able to download your product that day, which means your name and Web address gets in front of people you might never reach otherwise.

Actually, it's a pretty ingenious plan, as long as we all help out. Even if you don't have anything to donate, it would be worth purchasing Eric's book that day just to get \$500 worth of downloadable products! What a deal! Can I count on you?

If so, please email your downloadable product, its \$ value, your photo and your bio (make sure to include a link to your blog or Web site) to DrEKaplan@aol.com and tell him Yvonne Perry twisted your arm to help him!

For those interested in a DVD exploring the complex and compelling face of poetry, Loida Mariano of Bryan World Productions, LLC would like to announce Graffiti Verite' 6 (GV6) The Odyssey: Poets, Passion & Poetry (UPC: 6 053 610 926 2 8).

[GV6 The Odyssey](#) DVD embodies and reveals the intellectual / spiritual truth behind 31 Multi- Ethnic Award -Winning Published and Respected Poets and their Poetic Creations in a seamlessly woven, uniquely honest visual tapestry. Deftly guided by [Multi-Award Winning Indie Filmmaker Bob Bryan](#) (Executive Producer / Director of the [Graffiti Verite' Documentary Series](#), [GV6](#) synthesizes One-on-one Poetry Readings, Graphic Iconography, Creative insights, and fascinating dramatic poignant Interviews.

[GV6 THE ODYSSEY FILM REVIEWS \(http://graffitiverite.com/GV6FILMREVIEWS.html\)](http://graffitiverite.com/GV6FILMREVIEWS.html)

[GV6 The Odyssey](#) DVD stands as a "Must-See Documentary Presentation" with huge Educational and Creative implications for those drawn to language and literature! Educators and Creative Writing instructors will find GV6 an invaluable tool for awakening students' interest in the thrilling exploration of Poetry.

Decide for yourself what's going on. Those interested in scheduling a screening of GV6 please contact Loida at 323/856-9256 or bryworld@aol.com. Web site: www.graffitiverite.com.

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Registration Deadline: April 18, 2007

For more information or to register go to:

http://www.exceptionalmag.com/issue02/teleconference_webinar/cashbook_insideyou.html

BOOK SIGNING

Blind and physically disabled motivational speaker, poet and author Shirley Cheng will be holding a book signing and donating some of the proceeds to Christian Blind Mission International. The book signing will be held at Borders Books, Music & Cafe (1820 South Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, March 16.

The books she will sign include her inspirational autobiography The Revelation of a Star's Endless Shine, Dance with Your Heart: Tales and Poems That the Heart Tells, and 101 Great Ways to Improve Your Life, Volume 2, which she co-authored with leading experts like Jack Canfield, Dr. John Gray, and Dr. Richard Carlson. Cheng will also take pre-orders for her book Waking Spirit: Prose & Poems the Spirit Sings, and the latest installment in the bestselling "Wake Up...Live the Life You Love" series, to which she contributed, along with highly notable people including Carla and Lou Ferrigno, TV's the original "Incredible Hulk"

and neighbor on the network television comedy show, "King of Queens"; Dr. Wayne Dyer; and Tony Robbins. For more information, to ask her to speak at your event, or to schedule her for a book signing, contact Cheng via <http://www.shirleycheng.com>.

Talk Radio for Authors – Getting Interviews Across the U.S. and Canada, by Francine Silverman, is hot off the press from Infinity Publishing. The book is a valuable resource for authors looking for radio interviews.

There are 40 categories and each listing contains the show's theme, guest criteria, email address and website, along with host and guest bios providing background information and host opinions on what constitutes the best and worst guests. All this is designed to simplify the process of matching the guest with the show's specialties and provide an intimate look at each program.

Please visit Fran's blog at <http://booktalkradio.blogspot.com>, designed for hosts and guest authors to share their interview experiences.

New Podcast Novel from Award-Nominated Author Officially Launches

Tee Morris challenged both publishing and audiobook conventions in January 2005 by giving away his fantasy novel, MOREVI: The Chronicles of Rafe and Askana, as a podcast. Done as a serial, each chapter of the novel was made available to mp3 players everywhere. The co-author of Podcasting for Dummies officially returns to the podcast fiction arena with Billibub Baddings and the Case of the Singing Sword, now playing at TeeMorris.com and Podiobooks.com.

“If MOREVI is described as Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon meets Pirates of the Caribbean, then Billibub Baddings is The Lord of the Rings written by Mickey Spillane. Instead of the pirates, swordfights, and swashbuckling adventure of my first podcast, I'm offering an axe-wielding dwarf standing toe-to-toe with the mob in 1929 Chicago.” No one in either the hard-boiled detective or high-fantasy genre is safe in Billibub Baddings, and in this production Morris is bringing a few friends along for the ride. “Billibub Baddings will showcase an international cast, contributing their voices to my novel.” His cast includes podcasters Leann Mabry of Tag in the Seam, Paul S. Jenkins of the U.K. podcast Rev Up Review, and Chuck Tomasi of Technorama. Morris' voice talents also include award-nominated authors Scott Sigler (EarthCore, Ancestor), J.C. Hutchins (7th Son), and New Zealand author Pip Ballantine (Chasing the Bard); award-winning author Paul Levinson (The Silk Code) and New York Times Bestseller Tracy Hickman (The Dragonlance novels). “Podcasting Morevi was a lot of hard work, but it was also a lot of fun. Bringing friends into this production has just stepped everything up a level, and I could not be happier with the end results.”

Tee Morris launched the Billibub Baddings podcast on St. Valentine's Day, February 14 and is now available on Podiobooks.com, iTunes, Podcast Pickle, Yahoo! Podcasts and other podcast directories. If you can't wait to hear the end, the print version is also available at leading retailers, online in digital formats, or directly from the publisher. Regarded as a pioneer of podcasting, Tee Morris was the first author to podcast a novel in its entirety and now hosts The Survival Guide to Writing Fantasy, a podcast about marketing and self-promotion for writers. For more information on the author and the Billibub Baddings Mysteries, visit www.teemorris.com or www.dragoonmoonpress.com.

For More Information, contact:

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Phone – 703.565.6977
e-mail – tee@teemorris.com
Skype ID — teemonster

Word of Month

Having an extensive vocabulary is important to writers. In each issue of *Writers in the Sky*, I will introduce and define a word that we use don't often use. The word this month is:

Auspicious (aw-SPISH-uhs)

Promising good fortune, favorable, prosperous, encouraging

Example sentence:

Freelance writers, publishers and book publicists have auspicious careers.

The Writing Life by JJ Murphy: A Regular Column in WITS Newsletter



How to Revise or Edit Your Work

Writing is a lot like sculpture. In both crafts you trim away the excess to reveal the art within. Sculptors chip or carve away at stone, wood or clay; writers trim words.

Here are a few tips to guide you along this process:

1. Separate your tasks. Do not begin revising as soon as you finish writing the rough draft. Go for a walk or reward yourself in some way, so you can get some psychological distance. The more emotionally or intellectually I am involved with a written piece, the easier it is to overlook gaps in logic, unclear language and other areas that need revision. Give yourself at least three or four hours, if not the next day to begin revising your work.
2. Stay on message. Some writers like to make a checklist of body copy, why readers respond, headlines and other structural elements of the work. They use these checklists to ensure that they have organized their information in a way that will make sense to their readers. Typically you will have more information about your subject than you will use. The words you choose reflect your understanding of both the subject and your readers.
3. Read the draft out loud. This is not only an important proofreading skill; it works for revising and editing as well. When you read out loud you can hear the rhythm and cadence of the piece. If you stumble on a word, that may be a tongue-twister or evidence of weak writing. If you stop mid sentence, the idea may be confusing and may need to be restated. You may need to rearrange the order of paragraphs for clarification. Obvious errors in grammar, subject/verb agreement and other problems will be easier to identify as you say the words.
4. Read the draft out loud after each revision. Is your writing clear? Do you make your point or state your argument in a way that is clear to readers? Is the tone of your writing appropriate for your audience? Are industry-specific or technical terms defined? Do your transitions move readers easily from one point to the next? Have you used paragraphs, outline form or bullets to help the reader follow your thinking?
5. Check all facts and references. Are your quotes, names of experts or sources, and all supporting materials accurate? Have you written enough to satisfy your reader?
6. Does it work? Does your conclusion tie your previous points together? Do you deliver what you promised in your opening paragraphs? A checklist can be a useful tool if there are gaps in your delivery.
7. Write more than you need. The words you end up trimming are not wasted words. Once you are satisfied with the organization of your paper, you may find a better or clearer example to support your point. Often this material is in earlier drafts.
8. Let it rest. Once you are confident that this is your best writing, don't read it again for at least one day.
9. Proofread before you publish. This is the time to check the details. Read the piece backwards to catch spelling, numerical or grammatical errors. Double check facts, read your work aloud one last time, and make sure it is letter perfect before you send it out.

By allowing the process to unfold, you can create a well crafted written piece from your notes to early drafts.

Platinum Level Expert Author for ezinearticles.com , JJ Murphy, offers creative nature curriculum, wild food recipes, fiction, poetry, articles and writing services for individuals, entrepreneurs, small businesses and ecologically aware companies. Visit <http://www.WriterByNature.com> for samples of her work.

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Past Issues of Writers in the Sky Newsletter

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If you wish to contribute an article, advertorial, blurb, announcement about writing, publishing or book marketing, please review these guidelines and submit your item to writer@yvonneperry.net

- Limit articles to 750 words or less.
- The piece must be about the craft or business of writing and publishing.
- Include a short bio with your submission so I may give proper credit.
- Use Times New Roman 11 point font.
- MS Word docs are okay, but txt files are preferred.
- Promotion of your own material is accepted if it is written in an advertorial (article) style.
- No colored text box (jpg, bmp, etc.) ads. The article must be content rich.
- Book reviews are accepted as long as they highlight the book and its author in a positive manner.
- Poetry is accepted. I will publish three short works (less than 25 lines) in each issue. Do not double space between lines.
- Announcements of upcoming events, personal accomplishments, special offers, etc. are accepted. Try to keep these less than 250 words.
- Each submitting writer retains the copyright to his or her own piece of literature and may use it elsewhere.
- Since I do not charge a fee for the newsletter, I am unable to pay for submittals. However, the networking opportunity is worth a lot.
- The newsletter will be sent on the first of each month. I need all submittals in by the 25th day of the month prior.