



Writing Right

CONFERENCE EDITION

Publisher Writing Right

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WRITING RIGHT CONFERENCE

6TH & 7TH MAY 2006

At the S.A. Writers Centre, Rundle Street, Adelaide
DRAFT PROGRAM ONLY (subject to change)

SAT 6TH MAY

9.30am **REGISTRATION**
Coffee

10.00am **CONFERENCE OPENING and KEY
NOTE SPEAKER**

*Bronwyn William, General Manager,
Borders, Adelaide*

- What sells
- What's 'hot.'
- Getting that book into Borders
- Facts and Stats about major book retailers

10.30am **SO, YOU WANT TO BE A WRITER?**
All about you – Delegates Workshop

11.00am **COFFEE BREAK**

11.20am **IN THE BEGINNING...**
(Chair Pamela Rajkowski)

Workshop No. 1

- How do I begin to write
- Staring at that blank page
- Establishing writing patterns
- Routines & Structures

Workshop No. 2 To plot –or not to plot

Workshop No. 3 Characterisation

12.30pm **LUNCH BREAK**

(Luncheon not provided. Restaurants, delicatessens
close by or bring own lunch)

1.30pm **SHOW – DON'T TELL**
*Chris Ostermann, (aka Christina Carlisle –
published author)*

- Dialogue
- Points of View
- Action

2.30pm **COFFEE BREAK**

2.45pm **NEVER GIVE UP!**
Trish Morey (multi- published author)

3.25pm **AUTHOR'S FORUM – Q & A**
Panel of authors including Anne Oliver,
Jennifer D'iane, Helen Chilcott and Romona
Hilliger
Chair – Trish Morey

4.00pm **IT'S A WRAP** (five minute summation of 1st
day)

4.30pm **COCKTAIL PARTY**
to (in SA Writers Centre – including Conference
cost)

6.00pm

7.00pm **AWARDS DINNER**

At South Australian Writer's Centre -Buffet dinner

Theme – Myths and Legends
**(Come dress as your favourite Myth or Legendary
Writer/Artist/Movie Star etc.)**

Award Presentations @ 8pm

WRITING RIGHT meetings held on the third Friday of each month in the SA Writers Centre Critique 1
meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 12 Sandford St. Kensington Gdns in the cottage behind the
main house. New members welcome: phone 8332 6085 for details or write to dyoz@ozemail.com.au

SUNDAY 7TH MAY

9.30am **REGISTRATION**
Coffee

10.00am **PROMOTING & SELLING THAT BOOK**

Three Media Experts tell you how it is done

11.00am **COFFEE BREAK**

11.20am **CELEBRITY PANEL**
Four well known South Australian identities will outline their opinions on what represents a good writer and will take questions from delegates

- *Ashley Mallett (author/cricket commentator/journalist)*
- *Nan Witcomb (poet/author/radio celebrity)*
- *June Taylor (script writer/documentary maker/radio program producer)*
- *Dr Judy Ford (renowned scientist/author)*

12.30pm **LUNCH BREAK**
(Luncheon not provided. Restaurants and Delicatessens near by)

1.30pm **PUBLISHERS' FORUM**
Three high profile representatives of well-known Publishing Houses will explain what they are seeking when considering the publishing of a book.

- *Julia Beavan, Acquisitions Editor, Wakefield Press (confirmed)*
- *Susan Rintoul, Seaview Press*
- *Rod Martin, Managing Director, Era Publications*

2.30pm **COFFEE BREAK**

2.45pm **YOUR SAY – WORKSHOPS**

- Non-fiction writing – *Pamela Rajkowski*
- Poetry – *Nan Witcomb*
- Writing successful Query Letters and Synopses – *Diane Beer and Chris Ostermann*

3.45pm **IT'S A WRAP**
(Conference summation)

4.00PM **CLOSE**

DELEGATE REGISTRATION

Please tick relevant boxes

**CONFERENCE – Includes two days/
=\$100.00**

**Morning and afternoon refreshments/
Sat. Cocktail Party
Sat. Awards Dinner**

**CONFERENCE – Includes two days/
Morning & afternoon refreshments
Sat. Cocktail Party
= \$60.00**

**CONFERENCE – Includes Sat. only/
Morning & afternoon refreshments
Sat. Cocktail Party
=\$35.00**

**CONFERENCE – Includes Sun. only/
Morning & afternoon refreshments
=\$25.00**

**CONFERENCE- Cost to attend any
Individual session
=\$15.00**

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

Email _____

**Send Registration Form and Cheque/M/O (made out to: -Writing right)
To: Writing Right Conference Convener: Diane Beer
12 Sandford Street
Kensington Gardens. SA 5068**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL
BE**

**FRIDAY April 21st
in the SA Writers' Centre
Rundle St,
2nd floor above
Caffe Buongiorno at 6.30 pm**

**Critique Session on the first
Saturday of the month April**

**1st
At 2.30pm
12 Sandford St., Kensington
Gardens 83326085**

**Barbara Brockhoff will host
the afternoon**

'Tony De Lorger has created an epic work on a mammoth scale, peopled by creatures and characters from the depths of a truly fantastic imagination. This is a story to be read and re-read again and again. A true classic!'

Paul Edmund Norman – The Gateway UK

MAY CONFERENCE

BOOK EARLY

May 6 & 7th weekend

**In the SA Writers' Centre
Conveners Diane Beer & Chris Ostermann.**

**Bookings will be limited – due to
seating space – so first in gets the
seats. 14 seats have already been
taken**

**We have kept costs as low as they can go
– however the standard is higher than
average.**

**Apart from the \$50 for the two days,
which will include handouts & morning and
afternoon tea, we will also have an Awards
Night dinner and a cocktail party.**

So the entire package will be \$100.

**Attendees can bring or buy their own
lunch.**

**And there is the option of just booking
into single workshops for \$15 each.**

The \$100 package - a great conference offer

Great speaker for April

Tony DeLorger

**Sydney born Tony DeLorger moved to
Adelaide in 1996 and has written nine books**

He is an accomplished graphic artist and designs his own book covers. Apart from his novels he has written for tabloid and magazine advertising as well as music and scripts for radio and television commercials.

His book, The Theban Trilogy was nominated for the 2003 Independent Publisher's Awards of America.

These are two of the reviews:

'This book stands side by side with "lord of the Rings", or perhaps even a little higher. The Theban Trilogy is a MUST READ! I can't give it a high enough recommendation.'

Shirley Johnson – Midwest Book Reviews USA.

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But Before the Conference & Part of the Proceedings

TWO QUICK CONTESTS

Winners will be announced at
the conference

1. WRITE A 'CONNECTIONS' AD.

The advertisement can be
humorous, sexy, serious, and
real or pretend for or by any
sex, or age.

Entries can remain anonymous,
but will be used as part of the
entertainment at the Writing
Right conference on the first
weekend in May.

The winner gets a free
'Connections advertisement' in
the Advertiser of Sunday Mail
(not necessarily the words
written for the contest) or an
autographed, newly published
book from one of our members.

2. WRITE A BLURB in less than 150 words for the back cover of a book (any book, any genre, fiction or non-fiction, a real book you are writing or an imaginary work).

The winner will receive an
autographed book written by one
of our members. (More than six
of our members will have their
books newly published books on
sale at the conference)

The judge's decision is final and the
copyright remains with the author -
and all that legal sort of stuff. A
few examples are available if
requested.

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**HAVE YOU BOUGHT A COPY
OF OUR:
Writing Right ANTHOLOGY YET?
....ONLY \$20 PLUS POSTAGE**

**THE BOOK SHOWS THE HIGH
STANDARD OF WRITING
AMONG OUR MEMBERS
Pride in our membership helps the
group to grow stronger - and the
stronger the group, the better skills
sharing for everyone**

Member's websites

Romona Hilliger

www.thewaterfront.net.au/romona

BOOKS:

A SHADOW FROM HIS PAST
NOW AVAILABLE AT ROMANCE AT HEART

www.rahpubs.com/

HUNTING WITH THE WOLF
COMING SOON LINDEN BAY ROMANCE
www.lindenbayromance.com/

Chris Ostermann

<http://www.christinacarlisle.com/>

Books:

Husband for Hire New Concepts
Wade's Woman New Concepts
Alaskan Fire New Concepts
Outback Affair New Concepts
Operation Imposter Books Unbound

Helen Chilcott Conway's Women (printed in
time for conference)

<http://www.nailsinthepinque.websyte.com.au/>

Astrid Cooper (4 books listed on site)

<http://www.astridcooper.com/Main.htm>

Ruth Estelle

<http://www.workingyoga.com.au/>

Publishing news, from Cynthia Sterling, a member of the Australian Chapter of Romance Writers of Australia.

She says:-

Arrow Publications LLC is an innovative online publisher offering romance stories in graphic novel form. Subscribers can log on to read illustrated stories -- with accompanying background music if they desire.

Arrow is looking for romantic suspense stories to translate into this format.

Interested authors should consult the detailed writers guidelines at

<http://www.arrowpub.com/writers.htm>

You must first submit a 2-3 page outline of your story. If interested, Arrow will request a 60-70 panel script.

Payment is \$400 - 500 for all rights.

Teacher Curriculum LLC

(<http://www.goteachit.com>) publishes

1000 electronic titles each year, all curriculum materials for classroom teachers. They're interested in all kinds of fiction for kindergarten through high school students as well as puzzles, teaching tools and other curriculum. From the website "We are always accepting submissions of creative and useful lesson plans in any competency area or grade level for publication. Just fill out the form, and send in your idea for consideration. If accepted, you will be assigned a mentor to help you develop your idea and get it ready for final publication. Authors are

paid a percentage royalty on the gross selling price of the product."

Sable Publishing

(<http://www.sablepublishing.com>)

publishes trade paper genre fiction with artistic covers. " Sable Publishing makes a literary statement with a growing list of innovative classic Trade Paper books written by creative authors with stunning art on the book covers designed by famous artist Hyacinthe Baron....Sable Books feature Interesting literary content, easy reading formats, entertaining fictional characters, great stories, mysteries, romance, and enough schmaltz to warm the heart and mind." They're also interested in screenplays for motion pictures, scripts for half-hour television shows and scripts for television series.

Query Glory Harley, Submissions editor.

Publishing guidelines are at

<http://www.sablepublishing.com/pages/5/index.htm>

Virtual Tales is an e-publisher of serialized novels/novellas spanning a variety of fiction genres and styles. Currently, they are looking for complete novels/novellas that can be serialized, as well as long-running serials from defunct sites like KeepItComing.Net. No erotica, X-rated or excessively violent stories or fan fic. They also are looking for staff editors and cover artists. For details go to <http://www.virtualtales.com>.

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They're looking for stories of 34 installments, each installment 1000 - 2000 words long. Payment is made through PayPal, with the author receiving 60% of proceeds from subscriptions to the story.

Politicians Quiz

- A - Bill Clinton
- B - Warren G. Harding
- C - Andrew Jackson
- D - Thomas Jefferson
- E - Lyndon B. Johnson
- F - John F. Kennedy
- G - Franklin D. Roosevelt
- H - George Washington

1. Which president smoked marijuana with a nude playgirl while he joked about being too wasted to "push the button" in case of nuclear attack?
2. Which president allegedly had affairs with both a winner AND a finalist in the Miss America pageant?
3. Which president had sex with one of his secretaries stretched out atop a desk in the oval office?
4. Which president allegedly had an affair (as well as children) with a slave who was his wife's half sister?
5. Which president called his mistress "Pookie"?
6. Which president married a woman who hadn't yet divorced her first husband, and was branded an "adulterer" during his re-election campaign?
7. Which future president wrote love letters to his neighbor's wife while he was engaged to someone else?
8. Which president had a torrid affair with the first lady's personal secretary?
9. Which president had sex with a young woman in a White House coat closet - at one point, while a secret service agent prevented the hysterical first lady from attacking them?

10. Which president had sex in a closet while telling his partner about the *other* president who did the same in a closet? (The one from Question 9)?

11. Which vice president was ticked off because he felt that HIS record of sexual conquests was much more "impressive" (i.e. numerous) than the President's?

12. Which future president, while a college student, enjoyed showing off his p***s (which he named Jumbo)?

ANSWERS

1. F
2. A
3. E
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. H, E
8. G, F
9. B
10. F
11. E
12. E

Hillary Clinton's Home Town

Bill and Hillary Clinton are driving in the country near Hillary's hometown. They are low on fuel, so Bill stops at a gas station. The man at the gas station comes out and looks into the window. "Hey, Hillary! We used to date in high school, do you remember me?" he asks.

They talk merrily for a few minutes. Bill pays, and they leave. As they drive, Bill is feeling very proud of himself and looks over at Hillary.

"You used to date that guy? Just think what life would be if you hadn't married me," he says. Hillary looks at Bill and says to him,

"Well, I guess you'd be pumping gas and he'd be President"

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Avoid Creative Dialogue Tag Syndrome

Just be like that," she pouted.
"Oh, come on," he groaned. "Not this again."
"You don't love me," she replied.
"Right," he snarled. "That's why I bought you an eight hundred dollar diamond."
"Here," she sobbed. "Just take it back. Take it."

What is wrong with the above?

The writer has the creative dialogue syndrome and relies on creative tags (pouted, groaned, replied, snarled, sobbed) so the reader will know how to interpret the dialogue. What's wrong with this? Let us count the ways?

The reader must interpret the tag and evaluate if the dialogue agrees with the tag. At best, it disrupts the flow. At worst, the reader decides the two are contradictory and the writer loses credibility. It is telling the reader how the words are said instead of showing.

If the dialogue is well-written and the accompanying action is well-chosen, it is redundant.

It is annoying.

No tag at all. This allows the power of the words to stand alone. As long as we know who's speaking, no law says we must use a tag.

Action. "Shelly's lower lip quivered" replaces "she pouted." It's more specific, it allows us to visualize Shelly, and it's showing, not telling.

The prosaic "said." Yes, "said" is boring. It's overused. In fact, it is so boring and overused that it's invisible. Just like "the" and "a" and "his" and other parts of speech that are used several times on each page, "said" slides right past the reader and allows him to concentrate on what's important: the action and the dialogue.

A combination of "said" and action. This is particularly effective when interrupting dialogue, as in the last sentence of the after example above. While on the topic of dialogue tags, let's also talk about correct punctuation. If a tag is used (preferably "said," but an occasional "asked" or "repeated" is permitted), a comma separates the dialogue from the tag (see examples in sentences 2 and 4 above). If action only (no tag at all, as in the

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first sentence in the example) is used, it is considered a separate and complete sentence and should be punctuated as such. If it is necessary to interrupt a dialogue sentence, as in the last sentence in the above example, use the tag and action, thus allowing a comma instead of a period.

Note: "I love you," she smiled, is never correct.

"Smiled" cannot be a tag; it is an action.

Therefore, it can be written in one of two ways: "I love you," she said and smiled. - or - "I love you." She smiled.

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."
-- Rudyard Kipling

Check out these sites...

<http://www.fictionfactor.com/epublishers.html>

<http://www.inspirationforwriters.com/>

DESIGNING A CHARACTER CHART

MANY writers find it helps to make a Chart for each character. This is especially helpful during the early stages of character development, before the character becomes as real to you as your mother. There are several charts of this sort available, some extremely detailed and some containing only facts and figures. Try to make one that includes the most important traits to help you visualise your character, both physically and emotionally

A well defined character chart, like a well planned plot, keeps you on track through writer's block, through mid-book sag, through fits of the lazies and through excuses your mind raises to stop you writing.

Each chart should list the main attributes.

Example Character Chart

- The character's place in the story
- Full name
- Reason of meaning of name
- Nickname and reason
- Age
- Eye colouring, (glasses or contacts) & hair colouring or dye
- Weight and height
- Skin type and toning and any distinguishing marks
- Shape of face
- State of health
- Favourite colours
- Favourite foods
- Favourite books
- Talents & skills
- Characters flaws and strengths
- Mannerisms and peculiarities
- Hobbies Dark secrets
- Embarrassments, self perceptions
- Any other major interests
- Hometown
- Childhood
- Memories
- Education
- Religion or lack of
- Family and relations
- Attitudes
- Priorities
- Self esteem
- Smoker, brand - extent of habit

- Drinker and extent of habit
- Hidden past
- Personal wish list
- Personality traits
- Childhood conflict
- Early childhood vulnerabilities
- Optimist or pessimist
- Introvert or extrovert
- Motivations
- Social interactions
- Immediate & long term goals
- How they face problems
- Clothing, jewelry, hair style
- Spending habits
- .Most prized possession etc etc

Knowing the person inside out will help you know how they react when conflict arises. And how people react to the character.

A person with a short fuse makes people pussy-foot around them. A placid person encourages a different reaction.

There are different types of psychological types and if we know the way people think we know how their traits and can predict their behaviour to a certain degree.

You don't have to write every one of those characteristics into your story, but you know them inside out and how they will react to every situation.

You can add to that list and probably will as the character develops in your story.

Some writers clip pictures of models, film stars or a well known personality or face from a magazine and paste those above the computer while writing

Personality Wise

Don't introduce too many characters too soon. Allow your reader to become acquainted with the characteristics of each character. This helps the reader bond with the main characters or develop a character loyalty.

Make the names memorable, simple but different. For example don't have the female characters have similar names starting with the same letter.

Show don't tell. Let the character show he is an utter cad, rather than you tell the reader that he is the outright pits. Don't leave your characters too long by themselves following the initial introduction. Your reader will forget who they were. Unless of course you are the best writer in the world, writing the most memorable characters ever created

Vary the types of personalities. For example a shy person against an extrovert. A timid against a strong.

Don't tell the reader everything you know about the character in the first few pages. Allow the reader to explore, discover and learn about the character.

Give the characters their individual voice. One can speak in quick, short sentences and another can use colourful language...

Concrete Thinkers

They arrive at decisions piece by piece by building the information slowly until they are on firm ground. They are slower but they often find the smaller details that others miss. And they are slower at reaching conclusions.

Global Thinkers

The supermen of the globe leap ideas at a single bound and see situations as a whole. They process information instantly, tend to become bored quickly and may become defensive, evasive or inarticulate when they don't know how they arrived at a conclusion.

Investigative Thinkers

Writers are investigators, (of course) especially when they delve into history.

Dialogue for Characters

Make sure the dialogue shows the characters' personalities
People speak in short sentences and they tend to interrupt each other when speaking. This makes quickens the pace and makes it more realistic.

Don't use dialogue to give information to the reader. The dialogue should sound realistic, not like a travelogue.

http://www.spokenbookspublishing.com/book_publishing_services.htm

Should you be thinking about...

Publishing an Audio Book?

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by Dave Giorgio and Spoken Books Publishing

If you are like most authors, including myself, audio books haven't crossed your mind in any significant way. Being involved with the "written word" all my life, I quite honestly had a rather snobbish attitude towards the printed book's audible cousin...

Then a strange thing happened. About a dozen years ago, due to work-related business, I was required to listen to the audio version of *Treasure Island*. Wow, what a marvelous experience it was. I finally understood what all the fuss over audio books was about. There is real magic there.

Fast forward a decade: Audio books are the fastest growing segment of the publishing industry with yearly sales approaching one billion dollars. The fact is, people are more active than ever, and millions are turning to audio books as a wonderful way to enjoy their books.

Audio books are listened to while at home, traveling, working out, commuting, etc. Many listeners own MP3 players such as the Apple iPod, and purchase and download books onto these players to listen to on the go. The numbers don't lie. This market is exploding.

Forward to the present: I am VP of Spoken Books Publishing, a publisher of fine audio books. As a producer, and also as one of our narrators, I can tell you that our production quality is second to none; just absolutely wonderful. But the reason for this letter is to inform you that we have created an excellent new service that might be just the spark your publishing career needs. Is it right for you? Just take a look at these simple questions:

- *Can you imagine your book being read aloud by a professional narrator and being enjoyed by a listener?*
- *Have you published your book previously in printed form? Would you like to improve the sales of your printed book with the increased visibility that an audio version would provide?*
- *Would you like to stand out from the crowd by having an audio version of your book on the market?*
- *Are you intrigued by the possibility of earning an excellent royalty percentage on the sales of an audio version of your book?*

Dave Giorgio
Spoken Books Publishing