

Western Maryland Writer's Meetup

December 16, 2007

But words are things, and a small drop of ink, falling like dew upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think Lord Byron

Issues:

- ❖ Meetup costs an organizer money each month. For now, its only \$9.00 so even loose change can help cover costs. I also provide time and printing to the group, so every little bit helps.
- ❖ Discuss frequency of meetups, and goals of the group.
- ❖ Ideas on workshops

Writing Tips

- **Do not compare yourself to others.** What you're looking for is finding your own voice, not copying a favorite author. You will always find better as well as worse writers.
- **Use where you write as your personal sacred space** which should never be imposed upon while writing.
- **Remember to backup!** There's nothing worse than losing hours of writing due to a computer crash, loss of a notebook, accidental deletion or other reasons. Backing up your work is essential to your sanity. I recommend getting a flash drive or saving on the Internet. I use Zoho.com or Google Documents.
- **MS Word has a WordCount toolbar.** Go to Tools then WordCount. Click on the Show Toolbar button.

Writing Prompts and Inspiration

Writer's block is sometimes caused by the simple lack of inspiration or boredom. It helps to mix things up, to get out and see things, meet people, and experience life for without that valuable tool of experience, how can you write with any sense of authority?

Read a new book, take a walk, or listen to music can often help spark some ideas. Freewriting helps, as well as re-reading what you already have to get the juices flowing. Sometimes walking away to do something completely different allows your brain to refresh and start anew.

Blog an online journal that can include video, pictures, games, and more.

Ebook a novel/book published through the Internet in HTML, Word, or PDF formats. This is easily emailed or downloaded.

E-zine a periodical published through email or a web site.

POD Print On Demand which often refers to self-publishing services that allows people to order one (or more) books that get printed and sent out in real time.

SASE Self Addressed Stamped Envelope generally used when you want your manuscript returned to you after submission to an editor.

ISBN International Standard Book Number- An identification number code uniquely assigned to every book and obtained from the R. R. Bowker company.

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| Micro fiction | under 100 |
| Flash fiction | under 1000 |
| Short story | 1000 to 7500 |
| Novella, novellette | 7000 to 50,000 |
| Novel | 50,000 to 150,000 |
| Epic | over 150,000 |

Some handy sites:

<http://www.writingfix.com>

<http://www.writopia.net>

<http://www.hatrack.com> (free workshops)