

TAYLOR'S TIPS for a productive writing career...



Dear Fellow Writer,

Everywhere you go you hear about people being laid off, tightening of belts, less money to spend. Have you felt the pinch? Lots of writers feel it in the cutbacks on the number of assignments, fewer acceptances from publications, and publishers holding off on making decisions during this volatile economy.

If this is happening to you, don't despair. (I'm wearing a shirt with a heart and the logo "Life is Good." And I believe that.) Things will get better (they always do). Until then, target smaller markets, more markets, and submit more often. Don't stop.

But, you might say, "I've been submitting. I've sent to new markets. Nothing is happening after all the work I've done." Hey, I've been there, and it doesn't feel good. Know what does? Reading my success stories. I keep them in a special spot. They boost me up when I'm feeling blue by giving me the incentive to keep on writing. My special spot happens to be a 3-ring binder.

A 3-ring binder, you say? Yup, and here's how I did it. I bought a 2" binder at the office supply store (think big—you'll soon have lots to put in it). The binder has a clear protective cover that I can insert a page into in front. Then I bought a box of 3-hole punched clear sheet protectors.

What to put in your binder? Everything you have ever had published. When your story comes out in a magazine, how many copies do you buy? Use one of those to insert the cover page of the magazine that published your work and the actual printout of your published story or article.

Is your story in a printed book? Make a *color* copy of the cover of the book. Spend the little extra money on color (you're worth it). Then insert black and white copies of your story.

Design a page to insert in the front of the binder. I call mine “B.J. Taylor’s Published Work” and I’ll tell you why in a minute. My cover page has flowers on it, but you can be creative. Design something with beautiful graphics, or use a photograph of a special place you visited.

Next, enjoy. Pull out your binder whenever you feel blue. Read the stories that have touched readers with your special message. And if you don’t have much to put in it right now, that’s okay, everyone has to start somewhere.

The reason I put a business-type title on the cover page is because I take this binder to writers conferences. When I sit down at an appointment with an editor or agent, I present it to them by saying, “This is a binder of my published work.” I’ve had quite a few spend many minutes browsing through all of the clips.

So while things might be a little slow (and if they aren’t for you—hooray!), take some time to set up your binder. Each time you have something published, add it. The next time you attend a writers conference or a meeting with an agent or editor, you’ll have an up-to-date binder filled with your successes.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

What’s Happening...

Share YOUR voice and opinion—take this survey from Writer’s Market (I did it and it only took two minutes):

WRITING AND CRITIQUE GROUPS

We want to know your thoughts on participating in writing critique groups. Have you ever been part of an active critique group? Did your writing improve? Would you buy a book on the subject?

[Click here and take this short ten-question survey, and let us know what you think!](#)

September 1, Labor Day—kids back at school? Now’s the time to put into action those wishes and dreams you have had over the summer for getting more writing work done. Get out of your pajamas in the morning, sit down at the keyboard, and write!

September 30th – Last day for The Summertime Exchange Program. Keeping track of your challenges and rewards? Hope so. At the end of September I’ll be getting in touch with those of you who signed up. Enjoy the balance of summer!

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

Author of :

“The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work”

Available on Amazon.com or <http://www.buybooksontheweb.com/product.aspx?ISBN=0-7414-4099-7>

*Check out my website at www.bjtayloronline.com

P.S. Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends. If they'd like to be added to my list, they can email me at newsletter@bjtayloronline.com. You can also opt out of Taylor's Tips at any time. Just send me an email with "remove" in the subject line.