

## Questionnaire #1: You

Answer the following questions. Select all the appropriate answers, fill in the blanks, or make other marks as appropriate. There are no “right” answers. The answers to these questions are strictly for your own use. You *do not* have to share them with anyone if you don’t want to. Keep in mind that your answers will probably change over time; answer them based on your situation right now.

### Your Goals and Motivations

**Question 1:** Why are you writing or want to write? Pick all that apply but remember, this list is hardly complete! If some of your answers aren’t on the list, that’s what the “Other” option is for. (Pick all that apply.)

- My own pleasure.
- I want my work to be published or produced.
- I want to be rich and famous like:
- I just want to have extra money coming in to help pay my bills.
- I want to quit my current job and not have to work for anyone else ever again.
- I want to help others by sharing my story, knowledge, experiences, or what I’ve learned.
- I need catharsis, a way to relieve some of my pain.
- I want to entertain people.
- I want to expose a wrong or an unfair situation.
- I want to motivate others to do something.
- I want to prove to myself or to other people that I can do this.
- Are you kidding? I *have to* write! I can’t *not* write!
- Other:

**Question 2:** Who are you writing for? That is, who do you want to read, play, or perform you work? (Pick all that apply.)

- Just myself. I don’t care if anyone else sees it.
- Just my immediate family, especially my children and/or grandchildren.
- My friends as well as my family.
- Anyone who enjoys the same kinds of stories I do.
- People who need the kind of help or support I can provide.
- People who share my passion for a particular cause, namely:
- People who need to learn the truth about
- Some other group (we’ll ask about age ranges a little later):
- Other:



**Question 3:** What do you hope to accomplish by writing for yourself, your family, or your friends? (Pick all that apply.)

- Just to enjoy the act of creating.
- Keep my mind sharp and occupied.
- Prove to myself (and/or those who doubt me) that I *can* write!
- Share my history or parts of my life I think are important with my friends and/or family.
- Get some things off my chest.
- Settle some old scores.
- Other:

## Forms and Genres

**Question 4:** What do you write or want to write? (Pick all that apply.)

- A. What form(s) of work are you writing now?  
 Fiction     Non-fiction     Memoir     Poetry     Scripts
- B. What form(s) do you want to write?  
 Fiction     Non-fiction     Memoir     Poetry     Scripts
- C. What genre(s) do you write now? List it/them here.
- D. What genre(s) do you want to write? List it/them here.
- E. What length(s) of work do you write now?  
 Long form (book, multi-act play, collection)  
 Short form (short stories, short plays, articles, individual poems)
- F. What length(s) of work do you want to write?  
 Long form (book, multi-act play, collection)  
 Short form (short stories, short plays, articles, individual poems)
- G. What age range(s) do you write for now?  
 Pre-readers (e.g. picture books)     New readers  
 Children (ages 5-9)     Middle Grade (10-12)     Young Adult (teens)  
 New Adult (18-25)     Adult (18+)     All ages (all ages)
- H. What age range(s) do you want to write for?  
 Pre-readers (e.g. picture books)     New readers  
 Children (ages 5-9)     Middle Grade (10-12)     Young Adult (teens)  
 New Adult (18-25)     Adult (18+)     All ages (all ages)

**Question 5:** Why do you currently write in this form or genre?

**Question 6:** Why do you want to write in this form or genre?

**Question 7:** If you're writing book-length work, how do you want it to be published? (Pick all that apply.)

- By a traditional ("Big 5") publisher
- By a small press (including university presses)
- "Independently" (via Amazon, IngramSpark, Draft2Digital, etc.)
- I don't know
- Other:

**Question 8:** If you're writing, or want to write, short stories or poems, where do you want them to appear? (Pick all that apply.)

- In a printed magazine.
- In an online magazine.
- In any magazine, whether printed or online.
- On an online site not associated with a magazine.
- If you have any particular markets in mind already, list them here:
- In a book-length collection of my own short stories or poems.
- In a book-length collection of short stories or poems collected by someone else.
- In a poetry chapbook I publish myself.
- Other online location (e.g. blog, individual web site, other)
- I don't know.
- Other:

**Question 9:** If you're writing, or want to write, fan fiction:

A. Identify which universe(s) you write in or want to write in.

B. Which market(s) do you send or want to send your work to? (Pick all that apply.)

- Archive of Our Own (AO3)       Commaful       fanfiction.net
- Quotev       Tumblr       Wattpad
- Other:

**Question 10:** If you're writing, or want to write, graphic novels, anime, or manga:

A. Identify which universe(s) you write in or want to write in.

B. Identify which form(s) and genre(s) you write in or want to write in. (Pick all that apply.)

- Anime       Manga       Graphic Novels

C. Which market(s) do you send or want to send your work to:

**Question 11:** If you're writing, or want to write scripts, where do you want them to be produced? (Pick all that apply.)

A. Stage plays:

- Local/children's theater       Regional/national theater  
 Major theater ("Broadway")

B. Television:     Major network       Streaming service

C. Movies:

- Local/small-budget       Streaming service       Major studio ("Hollywood")

**Question 12:** How soon do you want your work to be published or produced?

- Now!     Next 3 – 6 months     Next 6 – 12 months     Next 1 – 2 years  
 Only when it's truly ready       I don't know

**Question 13:** What other goals do you have? (Pick all that apply.)

- I want to hit the best-seller lists.  
 I want to have a fan base that will buy anything I write.  
 I want to make millions from my writing.  
 I just want my writing to sell!  
 I want my work to be made into a movie or television series.  
 I want to win the major prizes in my field/genre.  
 I want to help other people.  
 I want to share my faith, beliefs, or things I've learned in my life.  
 I want literary critics to love my work.  
 I want to be seen as an expert in my field.  
 I want to be a presenter or panelist at the top writers' conferences and/or book fairs.  
 I want someone important to me to (finally) respect and appreciate me.  
 I want to get revenge on someone for something they've done to me.  
 I want to expose corruption or other wrong-doing by  
 Other:

## Your Commitment, Experience, and Other Attitudes

**Question 14:** How committed to your own writing are you?

- I make time for my writing consistently.  
 I write as much as I can, usually several days a week.  
 I have trouble finding time to write.

**Question 15:** My writing times are:

Sunday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Monday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuesday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Wednesday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Thursday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 16:** My back-up plan if I have to miss one of my scheduled writing times is:

**Question 17:** How committed are you to the continuous process of learning your craft?

- I read books, articles, blog posts, or other online content on the craft almost constantly.
- I read books, articles, blog posts, or other online content on the craft once in a while.
- I read books, articles, blog posts, or other online content maybe once or twice a year.
- I can't remember the last time I read a book, article, blog post, or other online content on the craft.
- I've never read a book, article, blog post, or other online content on the craft.
- I took creative writing classes in high school or college.
- I'm taking a class on creative writing now.
- I have a degree (or two, or three) in English. Isn't that enough?
- I don't need to take any classes.
- Other:

**Question 18:** What's the last thing you read, watched, or played that was created within the past five years? **NOTE:** Try not to include movies that are remakes of ones that were made previously. Take "created" to mean "created new."

**Question 19:** How much experience do you have as a writer? Place an X along the scale below.

New writer  Highly experienced

**Question 20:** How would you describe your current level of ability as a writer?

- I am a writing *god!* I know everything I need to know, and more besides.
- I've been writing for a while, and I've learned that there's always more to learn, which is great!
- I've been writing for a while and think I've got a pretty good handle on writing.
- I'm just getting started and I know I've got a lot to learn. I'm eager to do it!
- I'm just getting started and I'm afraid I'll never know enough to be any good.
- I want to write, even *need* to write, but I'm sure everyone will hate my work.
- I want to write but there's so much to learn. I'm paralyzed because I don't know where to start.
- Other:

## Critique Groups and Sites

**Question 21:** Why do you want to join a critique group or site, or think you want to? (Pick all that apply.)

- I want to improve my work.
- I want to help other writers improve their work.
- I want to meet other writers.
- I want to learn more about my craft.
- I want to be validated as a real writer.
- Writer friends told me I should.
- A writer friend invited me to join theirs.
- Another reason or reasons:

**Question 22:** On average, how much time can you commit to reviewing the work of the other writers in a critique group or site?

- One hour or more per day if needed.
- 30 – 60 minutes per day if needed.
- Less than 30 minutes per day.
- Some time, but not every day.
- I will have trouble finding the time.

**Question 23:** What's the longest you could easily travel each way to attend an in-person group's meetings?

- Less than 30 minutes
- 30 – 60 minutes
- More than 60 minutes
- Other:

**Question 24:** My critiquing times are:

Sunday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Monday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuesday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Wednesday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Thursday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 25:** My back-up plan if I have to miss one of my scheduled critiquing times is

**Question 26:** Estimate how much it will cost each month to be a member of:

An in-person, hybrid, or virtual group (membership fee/room rental fee; ink and paper; snacks or restaurant food; drinks; transportation; internet access, etc.):

An online site (membership fee, internet access, computer equipment):

**Question 27:** How well can you afford that?

- No problem
- I can make it work
- I'll have to make changes or sacrifices
- I can't afford it

## Working with Others

**Question 28:** Generally, how well do you work in groups?

- Very well       Usually fairly well       I sometimes struggle  
 Not well at all       I can't work with a group       It depends on the group

**Question 29:** How well do you accept negative feedback?

- I can handle it.       I struggle with it sometimes.  
 It's very hard for me to deal with.       I can't/won't consider it.  
 Other:

**Question 30:** How well do you manage contradictory feedback?

- I see it as an opportunity to learn.       I struggle to sort through it.  
 I get completely blocked by it and don't know what to do.  
 Other:

## Where & How

**Question 31:** Where do you live?

- Large city/its suburbs       Medium city/its suburbs       Small city  
 Small town       Rural area

**Question 32:** Rate your internet availability.

- Always available       Usually available       Sometimes available  
 Unavailable       I don't know

**Question 33:** Rate your internet's reliability.

- Highly reliable       Usually reliable       Unreliable       I don't know

**Question 34:** Rate your internet's capacity (bandwidth).

- Very high (gigabits/second)       High (can stream video with few problems)  
 Low       I don't know

**Question 35:** Rate your abilities for these tasks on a computer.

A. Writing and editing:

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       I don't know how

B. Using my word processor's reviewing or commenting function:

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       I don't know how

C. Sending and receiving email attachments:

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       I don't know how

D. Saving a document to a cloud storage system (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox):

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       I don't know how

E. Uploading a file to a web forum:

Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       I don't know how

F. Using a video conferencing app like Zoom:

Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor       I don't know how

**Question 36:** How well can your computer handle a video conferencing app?

No problem       Should be all right       I don't think it can

I don't know

**Question 37:** Does your computer have a webcam?

Yes, installed       Yes, attached       No       I don't know