

Wordos Markets Discussion
April 5th, 2005
Notes from Jay Lake

There are only three pieces of received wisdom in this business:

- 1) Write more
- 2) Use proper manuscript format
- 3) Keep your stories in the mail

Everything else is opinion or preference.

My opinions on writing more:

- 1) Write a story every week
- 2) Finish everything you start
- 3) Don't self-critique while you're writing
- 4) Work on one thing at a time

My opinions on proper manuscript format:

- 1) I like Times New Roman -- many people do not
- 2) Font size of the title is somewhat optional
- 3) Everything else is mandatory according to the traditional rules
- 4) Bad manuscript format gives the editor a reason to reject before she ever reads a word of your story

My opinions on keeping stories in the mail:

- 1) Know your markets and market resources -- ralan.com, quintamid.com
- 2) Understand the submission process -- slush etc.
- 3) Understand marketing -- how books and magazines are sold
- 4) Keep track of your submissions and their outcomes -- has tax implications as well -- see my magic spreadsheet
- 5) Write more means you can mail more, mail more means you can sell more

<http://www.wordos.com/resources/>