



The Worthy Writer's Conference
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Have you ever been in the position of wanting to attend a writer's conference, but with the cost or the fear of not being as seasoned or as published as many of the attendees you have shied away from it? Well put your fears aside.

While the cost of a conference in many cases can be excessive, especially when just starting your writing career, the wealth of information you will obtain is worth every penny. Keep in mind it will only help to move your writing career in the right direction by learning from the successful writers that have come before you.

I had the distinct pleasure of attending the BEA/Writer's Digest Books Writers Conference on May 30th. Since this was my second large writer's conference, I was at ease for the majority of the day when I realized that I wasn't such a newbie anymore. I found myself in the position of discussing my experiences within the last year with people that I met that are new to writing and attending conferences. It gave me a sense of pride to pass information along not only about NWCC, but also the SCBWI.

I have discovered that writer's are a welcoming group. Not only are many open to discussing their latest project, the vast majority enjoy sharing their wealth of experience and information. Whether it be; on newsletters, magazines or books that they have found helpful, research resources, organizations to join, critique groups, promoting your work, the list goes on.

Like most adventures in life, there is always a learning curve to experience. I participated in the pitch slam scheduled for the last portion of the day and that is when my nerves elevated to the unknown. I was able to calm my flip-flipping stomach by approaching the pitch slam with the attitude that I had nothing to loose and only experience to gain in meeting with an agent, even if only for a few moments.

Agents were positioned in varies conference rooms, with at least six agents to a room and they were grouped by category, which made it easier to pitch more than one by staying in the same room. Your pitch was set for a maximum of three minutes. I had the privilege to

pitch two agents and the second went smoother than the first. To my delight, the second agent requested the first three chapters of the novel I have been working on.

This goes to show that by going into something with an open mind positive results can occur.

It's key to your success by making yourself known to fellow writers, agents, publishers, and editors. By attending a writer's conference, it gives you a wonderful opportunity to make contact with many people you may not have otherwise met.

So go ahead put yourself out there, you just never know whom you will meet!