

PITCH SESSION TIPS



There's little that's more anxiety-inducing for a writer than pitching your book in person at a writers conference. There's also little that's more rewarding. **Let's Just Write!** will have a number of agents/publishers with varying genre preferences to take your pitches at **Let's Just Write!** in March. This is a great opportunity for you.

THE PITCH PROCESS:

Pitch sessions will be **5 MINUTES** and will be strictly timed. That may not seem like a lot of time but you'll be surprised.

Here's how to do it:

WHAT TO DO:

- You should have a **completed, polished manuscript** or nonfiction book proposal.
- Prepare a two- or three-sentence synopsis of your story (tips for how to do that are below). Keep in mind that it takes about 200 words to fill one spoken minute.
- That will give the agent/publisher enough time to ask questions and to give you feedback. Voila! Five minutes. On to the next.

NOTE: If someone asks for a sample or manuscript (yay!) and gives you submission instructions, use the pad/pen in your conference bag to write them down.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- **Don't** fill the first minutes apologizing for being nervous.
- **Don't** ramble about what you know about them to prove you did your homework. They expect that you did that.
- **Don't** wing it. Be ultra-prepared.

REMEMBER:

- Agents/publishers are just people. They know how you feel. They are looking for a project they can love and sell, and they hope yours is it.
- All writers feel nervous. Expect that and plan for it by overpreparing. The agent/publisher will not count nerves against you.
- Don't get discouraged no matter what happens. If materials are requested, great! If not, it might not be their kind of project. And you may get meaningful feedback to help you the next time. It's good experience.

TIPS in Crafting Your Pitch:

[How To Pitch A Book](#)

[DabbleWriter.com](#)

[The Elevator Pitch for Novels](#)