WRITING ACROSS GENRES

WHY AND HOW WE SHOULD SWITCH IT UP

Epically Short Bio

Currently writing across genres.

Experience with **Magical Realism, Fantasy, Sci-Fi, Women's Fiction, Humor Essay, Historical Fiction, Poetry and more.**

Degrees in Professional and Creative Writing

Genre columnist, Web Editor, and Book Coach at **diymfa.com**

Find out more about me at **amymarieayres.com**

Three Main Takeaways:

BECOME INFORMED.

ASSESS YOUR ABILITIES.

FORM AN OPINION.

Become informed:

What are **audiences** talking about? (think pieces, social media)

What do **writers** of the genre discuss? (Twitter, blogs, webinars)

IMHO it's not enough to Google the difference**, it's best to experience them yourself** before forming an opinion.

Twitter hashtags

The Best Hashtags For Writers

- #SciFI (100 **tweets** per hour)
- #Fantasy (104 **tweets** per hour)
- #Romance (133 **tweets** per hour)
- #AmWriting (267 **tweets** per hour)
- #WriteGoal (<100 daily use)
- #MSWL – 'manuscript wish list' (**tweets** most days)
- #WIP 'Work In Progress' (daily use, across all creative communities)

Articles to read

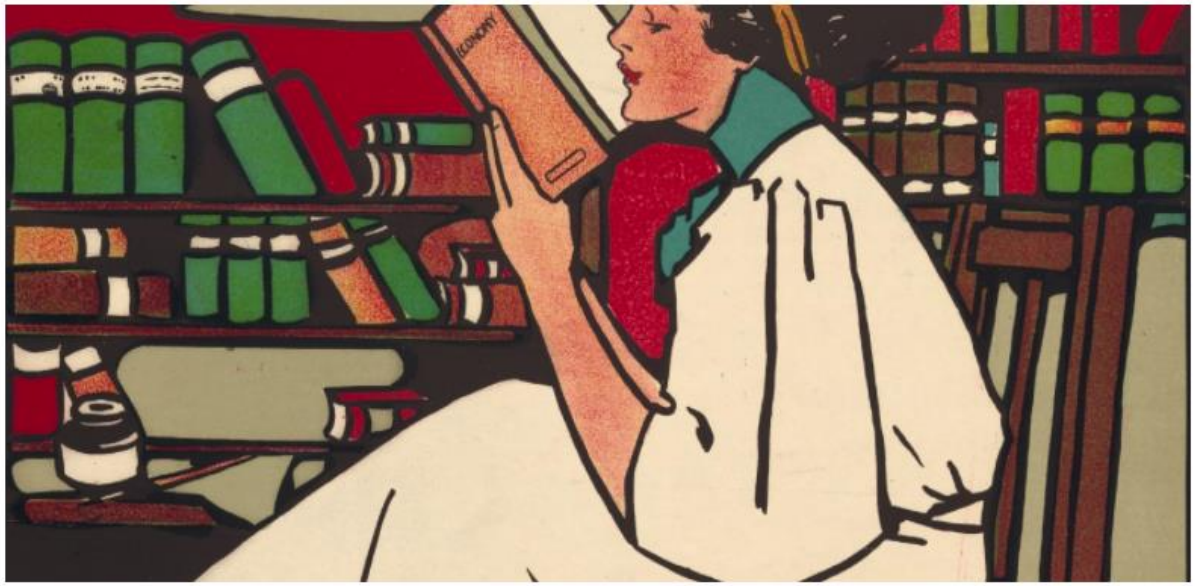
Articles on genre

“Opinion articles”

Articles written by writers of a certain genre.

(Start your own blog and start writing)

Medium | Writing



The Solitude of Books

In a world obsessed with conversation, physical books bring us solitude and freedom.

Will Buckingham in Blank Page

Feb 25 · 4 min read ★

“Research” hacks

Google genre

Wikipedia

Author websites

Cons, events, and webinars!

The Write Life	**Website: https://thewritelife.com/**		**Writer's Digest**	**Website: https://www.writersdigest.com/**
The Writer Magazine	Website: https://www.writermag.com/		ProWritingAid	Website: https://prowritingaid.com/en/Blog/Categories
Grammarly	Website: https://www.grammarly.com/blog/		Grammar Girl	Website: https://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl-archive
The Creative Penn	Website: https://www.thecreativepenn.com/		Jerry Jenkins	Website: https://jerryjenkins.com/blog/
Jennie Nash	Website: https://jennienash.com/		Writers Helping Writers	Website: https://writershelpingwriters.net
Jane Friedman	Website: https://www.janefriedman.com/		The Write Practice	Website: https://thewritepractice.com/
Book Riot	https://www.bookriot.com		Jeff Goins	https://www.goinswriter.com
Helping Writers Become Authors/KM Weiland	https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/		Live, Write, Thrive	https://www.livewritethrive.com/
The Rumpus	https://therumpus.net/		The Kenyon Review	https://kenyonreview.org/
Lambda Literary	https://www.lambdaliterary.org/		Jessica Abel	https://jessicaabel.com/blog/
Writing Academy/ Dani Alcorn	https://writingacademy.com/		Fiction University/Janice Hardy	http://blog.janicehardy.com/
Terribleminds/Chuck Wendig	http://terribleminds.com/ramble/blog/		Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators	https://www.scbwi.org/
AWP (Association of Writers & Writers Programs)	https://www.awpwriter.org/		Women's Fictions Writers Assoc	https://www.womensfictionwriters.org/
The Authors Guild	https://www.authorsguild.org/		Sci-Fi and Fantasy Writers of America	https://www.sfwa.org/
Mystery Writers of America	https://mysterywriters.org/		NaNoWriMo	https://nanowrimo.org/

Assess your abilities:

What are you confident about in your “safe” genre?

What elements have you mastered?

What needs improvement?

How much of a change is it to a different genre and why?

Type into the chat your genre of preference and why.

Questions to ask during your research:

What are genre differences?

What sets similar genres apart?

What are audiences looking for?

What are audiences sick of?

What stereotypes or tropes exist in this genre?

What are unique elements of a particular genre?

Some immediate and obvious answers:

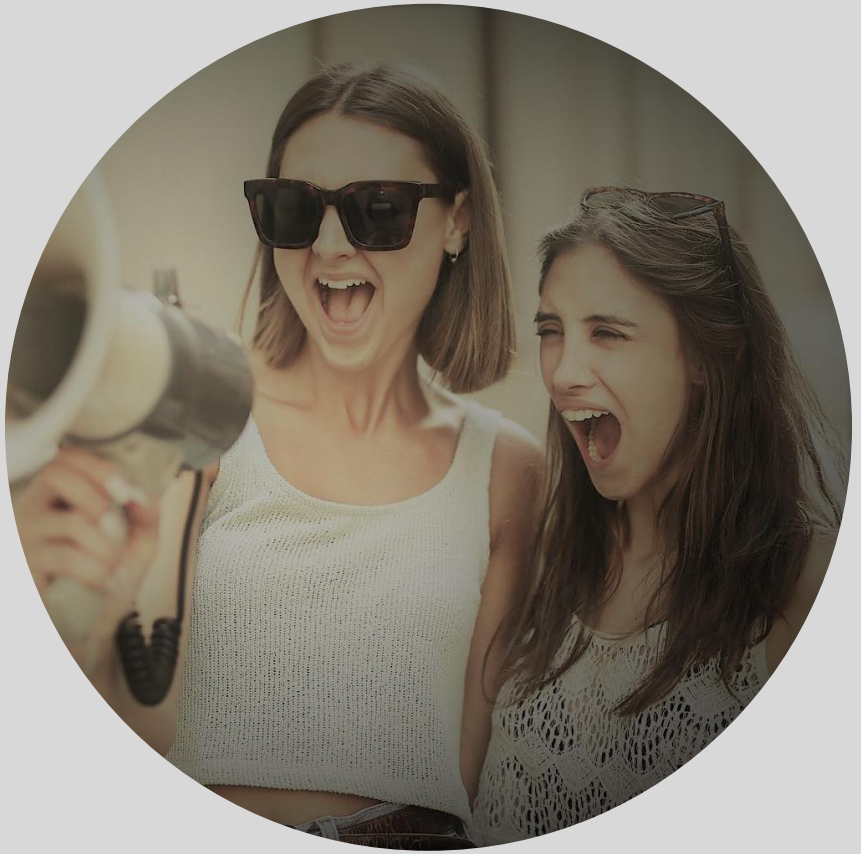
- **Audience changes.**
- **Word count requirements often change.**
- **Style of writing is different.**

BUT

- More fluid elements: world-building/setting, dialogue, exposition, character description, story arcs/pacing.
- Some genres have more wiggle room to play and explore than others. Take note of roadblocks and stubborn audiences.

Form an opinion.

- Remember it's important to understand guidelines but develop your own style and opinions.
- Opinions can differ (so take stock in what makes sense to you).
- On that note, it might feel overwhelming, so **do your research** in a way that makes sense and is comfortable to you.
- Reach out to those audiences with your thoughts and questions!



So, why write in a new genre? (Part 1)

Reasons why:

- **Determine what you need to know and have a clear understanding** of it before you start writing.
- **Test your abilities**. What can you not wait to tackle in your new favorite genre? Could you write something different to make the genre you dislike "better"?
- **Challenge your negative responses** to certain genres, always look for similarities, elements you like, or ways to make things "better".
- **Bring your new flavor** of writing to that genre (to me this is the most exciting part!)

So, why write in a new genre? (Part 2)

Ways to master it:

- Ask yourself: **what is it** about that new genre that is drawing you in?
- **Do a close reading analysis** to familiarize yourself so you don't end up "winging it" (although winging it is sometimes fun)
- Study popularized genres and **take in lots of mediums**: graphic novels, movies, TV, etc.
- **Do side-by-side comparison** between new and familiar/ "safe"
- **Pick one element such as character descriptions**/visual portrayals what makes them different/similar? Form your own opinion and enhance your expertise!

"Four steps" (Companion handout questions):

STEP ONE: Ask yourself important questions! Journal, write out your angst (use the handout)

STEP TWO: Become informed by doing your research (vary your mediums, handout has examples)

STEP THREE: Take stock of your abilities (handout). Be honest about where you need to improve.

STEP FOUR: Set Goals. Where are you now and where do you want to be?

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Last minute pro-tips:

(Join a writer's group) Co-write something for practice with a writer friend (you bring the dialogue and let them handle the hard science, or vice versa)

(Find a mentor) Crowdsource ideas from genre experts. Ask them what's missing from the genre or what they want more of.

Stay true to the genre, but also true to you.

Surprises await you!