

Say It Like a Pro: How to Talk About Your Book**WORKSHEET #1****GENRE****1. Where would readers look for your book when it's published?** _____

Browse in a bookstore or library (online or brick-and-mortar) and try to figure out where your book would be "shelved" or categorized. It's okay to have more than one answer to this question.

2. What other books would appeal to readers who love your book? How so?

Think about the "flavor" of the story -- is it an adventure? A coming-of-age? A cautionary tale? A self-deprecating humorous quasi-memoir? This does not refer to the style of writing, but the kind of story.

Readers who loved _____ [e.g. the Harry Potter series]

will enjoy my book because: _____

Ways they're similar: _____

Ways they're different: _____

3. Which authors do you "write like?" How so?

Do you write with wit similar to Christopher Moore? Do you favor simple sentences like Neil Gaiman? Do you provide rich historical detail like Diana Gabaldon? This is not to say you write exactly like the author(s) you name, or that you are telling the same kind of story. You're trying to form a point of comparison (or more than one) with a known author or authors.

I write like: _____

in this way: _____

Other ways we're similar: _____

Ways we're different: _____

4. The standard word count (book length) for your genre is: _____

For guidelines and genre word count ranges visit: <http://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/guide-to-literary-agents/word-count-for-novels-and-childrens-books-the-definitive-post>

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GENRE Continued

5. For your logline, what specialty expectations or requirements exist for your genre?

For example:

- romance loglines should include both the hero and heroine
- speculative fiction loglines should include setting or “special world”
- literary loglines often address theme
- loglines for younger readers should have an age-appropriate protagonist and a conflict that appeals/applies to the age of the reader

An overview can be found here: <http://writersrelief.com/blog/2009/06/genre-fiction-rules-find-out-if-your-novel-meets-publishers-and-literary-agents-criteria-for-publication/>

To learn more about your specific genre, do an Internet search on the words “genre” “[your genre]” (e.g. “science fiction,” “women’s fiction,” “thriller”) “reader expectations” or “criteria” or “elements”

Genre expectations: _____

My logline should reflect these genre expectations: _____
