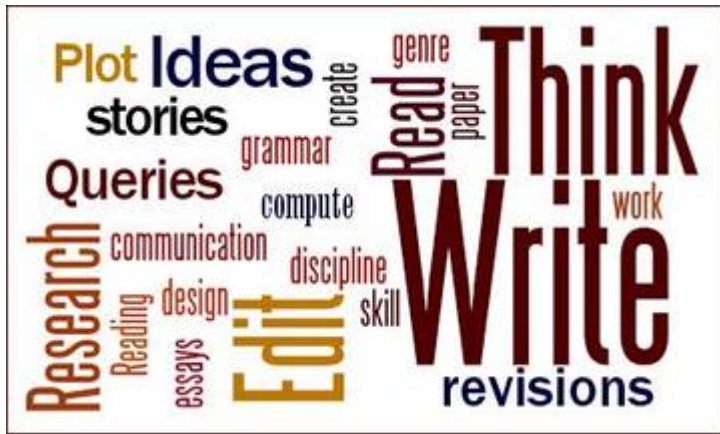


# Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 5, Issue 7 ~ July 2016

*Just Write: The At-Large Chapter for the League of Utah Writers*



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## Writing Quotes

“Keep your friend for friendship, but work with the skilled and competent.” – *Robert Greene*

“Write your first draft with your heart. Rewrite with your head.” – from movie: *Finding Forrester*

“If you don’t feel it, then how will your readers?” – *Colleen Tews*

“Metaphors have a way of holding the most truth in the least space.” – *Orson Scott Card*

“No author dislikes to be edited as much as he dislikes not to be published.” – *Russell Lynes*

“Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.” – *John Steinbeck*

## Chapter Officers

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## New Members

A hearty welcome to new members Jason Hayes, Brad Andes, Christine Baker, and Bradeigh Godfrey. Jason lives in St George, Brad lives in Bountiful, Christine lives in Colorado and Bradeigh (pronounced Brady) lives in SLC.

Bradeigh sent me a mini-bio. She’s a physician with four children, but is still finding time for creative writing endeavors. Like me she has published technical papers but would like to finish a novel she been thinking about for years. She has written short stories and this spring she won second place in a Flash fiction contest. She is eager to attend our critique sessions. Yay!

## Critique Group

**July– We are wrapping up the July 1st Critique/Review session now; the next session starts July 16th:** Please join us if you have something to share. We have a nice cadre of determined authors who provide useful feedback. All Just Write members are welcome to participate.

Mechelle and I take turns moderating. Let me know if you want to be on the mailing list for these sessions. You are welcome to participate, whether often or sporadically.

*Write On!*

## Editorial: The Importance of Following Directions

I just finished three grueling weeks of reading, reviewing, judging and scoring a dozen entries for a novel writing contest. Like most contests, this one lists its manuscript submission guidelines on the website, on the entry page, and in an email. And yet a high percentage of these anxious authors fail to follow the guidelines – and they're penalized for it.

Maybe the authors figure, *Hey I'm submitting and I paid, isn't that enough? What's with all these insipid, grammar-school guidelines anyway?* Or maybe they think, *All right already, I followed the most important of your rules, isn't that enough? Give me a break.*

Everyone who enters the contest receives feedback and a final score. The entries with the highest scores are sent to acquiring agents and editors for consideration. Those who thought it would be “all right” not to follow the formatting rules lost points, even if their submission was otherwise superb. To make this part of the judging process especially fair, the formatting guidelines for each entry are judged and scored by the same person before the entries are sent to the judges (like me). Thus each entry the judges receive already has one score on it: the one for how well the author followed instructions.

When judges read a truly great piece they want to give the author high marks, hoping they'll be one of the finalists. Our subjective feelings about the piece might tempt us to give the author “a break” regarding their formatting, but that isn't an option.

I encourage all authors to follow every single submission rule and formatting guideline, whether submitting to a contest, literary agent or publisher – even if you don't agree with them. On the other end, your manuscript will be judged, in part, on how well you followed their instructions.

*Keep writing!*

*~Ann*

## LUW Anthology:

The latest anthologies published by the **League of Utah Writers** are now on Amazon. **Mirrored Realities** contains my Selene story, which placed in the 2014 LUW contest. I hope you buy a copy: [http://www.amazon.com/Mirrored-Realities-Collection-Prose-Poetry/dp/0988236737/ref=sr\\_1\\_1](http://www.amazon.com/Mirrored-Realities-Collection-Prose-Poetry/dp/0988236737/ref=sr_1_1)

## Writing Conferences and Workshops

- ▶ **LUW Querying Workshop: August 6, 1 pm to 5 pm. West Jordan City Hall.** \$30 for League members; \$40 for non-members of the League. Information has been posted on the LUW website: <http://www.leagueofutahwriters.org/querying-workshop.html>

▶ **LUW Fall Conference: September 23-24.**

This is the League's biggest event. This year the conference will be in **Provo** at the Provo Marriott. Details will be posted in the League newsletter "The Quill" and on the League website.

<http://luwriters.org/> Please keep these dates open. Saturday night is when LUW contest winners are announced and awards given. I hope to see you there!

- ▶ **Colorado Gold Conference – Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers: September 9-11, 2016.** Denver, Colorado. This is a big conference. They always have a dozen agents and acquisition editors from publishing houses, so it's a good place to pitch your book. This Conference will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, Denver. <http://rmfw.org/conference/>

### Writing Contests

- ▶ **The 17 Best Flash Fiction Contests (according to BookFox):** <http://thejohnfox.com/2016/03/flash-fiction-contest/>
- ▶ **Flash Fiction Challenge for 2016 – This is different from most writing contests. It costs more but everyone gets feedback:** <http://www.nycmidnight.com/Competitions/FFC/Challenge.htm>
- ▶ **Crazyhorse – the 2016 Crazy Shorts writing contest: Deadline – July 31. Fee - \$15.** This is a short-short fiction contest, 500 words or less. Entries are considered for publication and entry fee includes subscription to Crazyhorse. <http://crazyhorse.cofc.edu/crazyshorts/>

### Online Resources

- ▶ **Insights from Judging a Writing Contest:** <http://www.annettegendler.com/2016/06/insights-from-judging-writing-contest.html>
- ▶ **How to Make the First Cut in a Writing Contest:** <http://www.thereviewreview.net/publishing-tips/how-make-first-cut-writing-contest>
- ▶ **How NOT to Win a Writing Contest: 7 Deadly Story Sins:** <http://annerallen.com/how-not-to-win-writing-contest-7-deadly/>
- ▶ **Write for the Judge: The Secret to Winning Writing Contests:** <http://www.10minutenovelists.com/write-a-novel-in-ten-minutes/>
- ▶ **How to Win a Creative Writing Competition – Top Tips:** <https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/nov/16/how-to-win-a-creative-writing-competition-joe-craig-tips>

### Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Chicken Soup for the Soul seeks essays on The Best Mom Ever:** Deadline – 9-30-16. They are looking for stories about moms of all ages, from young mothers to great-grandmothers and everything in between. They are looking for stories of special moments, the laughter, tears, support and the encouragement. Go to this webpage to read a list of suggested topics for the Best Mom book. <http://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/possible-book-topics> This is where you go to submit: <http://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story>

- ▶ **Flash Fiction – Top 20 Websites looking for Flash Fiction:** This website gives you an idea of how many people actually visit these sites and read the fiction. Many of these online journals publish longer fiction, nonfiction. <http://thejohnfox.com/flash-fiction-submissions/>
- ▶ **Novellas – 33 Publishers & Journals seeking Novellas:** According to Forbes, the eBook format has energized the novella form. <http://thejohnfox.com/journals-accepting-novellas/>



*Happy Writing (and Editing),  
Ann*