



## Workshop Topics

### **Stirring the Pot: Writing for Chicken Soup for the Soul**

Chicken Soup for the Soul receives thousands of submissions but only selects 101 for each book. How can you increase the chances they'll choose your story? Learn what Chicken Soup wants, what they don't want, and how you can stir up a winning Chicken Soup story.

### **Tackling Tough Topics: Writing on Sensitive Issues from Personal Experience**

It takes courage to address controversial or sensitive issues, especially when writing from a personal standpoint, but your words can make a difference in someone's life. Learn how to write with humor and insight to give your readers hope for the future and avoid pitfalls inherent in tackling the tough topics.

### **Writers' Rights**

First rights, reprint rights, all rights. Rights, rights, rights! What does it all mean, and what if I do something wrong? Learn about the different rights you sell on your work and find out how to retain as many rights as possible.

### **Write Winning Queries**

You've written a riveting article and identified which magazine will be a perfect fit. Now you just need to convince a busy editor who receives thousands of submissions every month to buy it. Oh, boy! Master the art of writing a one-page query letter that will get editors' attention and persuade them to publish your prose.

### **Critique Give and Take**

Honest critique is one of the best ways to improve your work, but writers often shy away from it. Rather than treat it as rejection, discover the value of critique and how to give and take it to polish your pieces for publication. Meet the "unique critique personalities" and discover the good and bad of each. In addition, learn how to find a critique group and how to know when it's time to move on.

### **Putting Your Best Foot Forward: The Submission Process**

You can present yourself as a professional writer even if you're not a published writer. To do so, you must know how to properly format and submit manuscripts, whether you write articles, devotionals, or books. Learn the basics of the submission process, including query letters and book proposals, and get your foot in the editor's door.

### **Doubtbusters: Conquering Writer's Doubt**

Everyone talks about writer's block, but many writers may suffer from something that poses an even greater hindrance to getting published—writer's doubt. Learn a dozen "doubtbusters" and break the blockade that keeps you from getting your words into print.

### **To Cliché or Not to Cliché**

That is the question. What is a cliché, and why don't editors like them? Dissect some of our everyday expressions and figure out why they work; then discover fresh and exciting ways to word your thoughts in this interactive, brainstorming workshop. Learn to write so your words will become the next generation's clichés.

### **Devotionals: Nuggets of Wisdom**

Because they are short (usually 250 to 400 words), writers think of devotionals as easy to write—until they try. Learn the 1-2-3 punch to pack the most into these nuggets of wisdom and motivate readers to take a deeper look at Scripture.

*And more . . . Contact Tracy for other workshop ideas.*