

Speak to Your Strengths

by

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Everyone has them

Everyone has great skills to offer. Your skills may be in languages, in math, in science, in botany, in cooking, in law, and the list goes on and on. And we may sometimes forget that not everyone has those skills like you do. We may sometimes forget that other people may even struggle in the areas that come so easily to you.

This is why this paper focused on **your skills**.

When you publish, you are sharing your skills with the world. You are sharing, in the form of a book, a manual, a publication, your skills and the world needs to know about your skills. When you take the time to put your skills to paper and to outline and describe for another person step-by-step how to do something, you are imparting knowledge and that's an awesome thing.

Dedicating yourself

Some people say it's hard to write a book. We agree. It isn't easy but no good thing in life comes easily. We can clearly see that any good endeavor and opportunity takes time, resilience, dedication and much more. We all have busy lives and many things to do. But dedicating yourself to writing your book and to putting your skills on display for the purposes of showing, inspiring, teaching and more are what great authors do.

To give an example, a woman I know wants to write a book. She dreams of it, she loves the ideas of the book she has already mapped out and she feels led and inclined to write the book. But she hasn't done it yet. She cites that her job, her husband, her home and her responsibilities in general don't allow her the time to do so.

My question to her was: don't you have an hour or two at some point in your week?

“Yes” she replied after she thought about it for a moment. “I have some time on Sundays when my husband goes to work out and I actually find myself a bit bored on that day.”

“There you go!” I advised her. Time to write. Time to put words to paper for that book you have been wanting to write.

You downloaded this manual

If you downloaded this manual, it is likely because you have a strong interest in publishing, in telling your story, in sharing your knowledge. You can consider this that “push” that you may need to dedicate yourself to writing those first three chapters (as a start) and that are required by AGP to submit your manuscript to us in the way outlined by our Submissions Guidelines. Remember that we know how daunting it can be for a first-time author to send their work in to a publisher (no matter what kind or what size). We’ve been there too! But the benefit of working with us is that you don’t have to wait 8-10 months to hear back anything, if at all. You see, most publishers provide you with clear guidelines on how to submit your manuscript for consideration but then they tell you that they will get back to you in 8-10 months **if** they are interested in proceeding with your book. We don’t do that because we don’t feel that that is very kind or respectful to your submission. We get back to you within 2 weeks and every submission is read, considered and responded to. If we do go with your manuscript, we will send you a publishing contract. If we don’t go with your manuscript, we will wish you best wishes on finding another publisher and no hard feelings. Either way, we will get back to you within the two weeks!

Why?

Because we know that this manuscript you submitted speaks to your strengths and you and only you can provide that particular explanation and information in that way!

Your skills, you strengths

One of the best parts about being a writer is to be recognized for your particular skill set and to have your particular skill set acknowledged. This is one reason in particular many tell us they feel excited to write and to be published....because they feel that their skill set is being recognized and honored.

A lady came to me one time and said that she wanted to write a book about nature photography but wasn't sure how to get started. My reply to her: "Just start." What did I mean? I meant just start writing, start taking those pictures, start putting together your book in any way you can and know how to right now, regardless of formatting, spelling, etc., not because those things are not important (they are BIG time!) but because I wanted to convey to her that the most important thing is to get started. To put something down as a starting point and then go from there.

We don't all start off by being aficionados in our field. Even people like Gordon Ramsay, Michael Phelps, Ina Garten and many more had to start somewhere and there is no shame in that. In fact, when we just start, what we are basically saying is that I know I am good at this and I will show you how with practice, I will get better and I am willing to share my knowledge with you all in the world!

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