



LANDING YOUR FIRST PUBLICATION

workbook + checklist

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*Ready for the full publication strategy?
Discount code on page 6.*

#1 WRITE A SHORT STORY THIS WEEK

Yes, in just one week. This may sound impossible, but knowing you're on a timeline keeps you from overthinking and overwriting. Pull the idea from a prompt, or write down the first image that pops into your mind from a story you've been wanting to write. Your story doesn't have to be perfect. It just has to be done.

PREWRITE

#2 FIND FIVE PUBLICATIONS TO SUBMIT TO

To find a few good leads, ask a search engine where to submit short stories. Then read through some of the stories on each publication's website to make sure they publish the kind of story you wrote.

PUBLICATIONS

- #1 _____
- #2 _____
- #3 _____
- #4 _____
- #5 _____

#3 CHECK SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

How do they take submissions: print and mail by standard post, email document, online submissions manager? Do they accept simultaneous submissions? Do they want a cover letter? Are they looking for new writers? Record those guidelines here.

PUBLICATION #1	
PUBLICATION #2	
PUBLICATION #3	
PUBLICATION #4	
PUBLICATION #5	

#4 WRITE YOUR COVER LETTER

Keep the letter simple. And don't worry if this is your first publication. We all start somewhere, and many publications love to discover new talent. It's okay to skip any entries below that don't yet apply to you. Otherwise, use these to build your cover letter:

#1	THE PUBLICATION'S EDITOR
#2	YOUR STORY'S TITLE AND WORD COUNT
#3	SOMETHING YOU LOVE ABOUT THEIR PUBLICATION
#4	YOUR PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS
#5	YOUR WRITING AWARDS, HONORS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS
#6	ABOUT YOU

#5 SUBMIT YOUR STORY

Start with the publication you most want to see your story in. When you submit, make sure you comply with the submissions guidelines for each publication you wrote down in step three. And jot down the following information each time you submit your story:

#1	THE PUBLICATION NAME
#2	THE STORY YOU SUBMITTED
#3	THE DATE YOU SUBMITTED
#4	WHEN YOU EXPECT TO HEAR BACK
#5	THE PUBLICATION'S REPLY (ACCEPTED/REJECTED)
#6	NOTES

#6 KEEP WRITING

Did your story get accepted? Great! Move on to the next story. Rejected? No worries. Submit your story to the next publication on your list. Follow up with each publication if you don't hear back by the expected response date listed in their submission guidelines. And write your next story while you wait.

PREWRITE

#7 KEEP SUBMITTING

Find more publications to submit your story to if it hasn't found a home yet. Or retire it, and send your next story to the same publications. Either way, the key to publication is just to: write, submit, repeat. Simple.

PUBLICATIONS

- #1 _____
- #2 _____
- #3 _____
- #4 _____
- #5 _____



SCREW LUCK

GETTING PUBLISHED IS ALL ABOUT STRATEGY

*Uncounted authors have followed one simple strategy to realize their dream of publication—a strategy that forced luck to work **for them** instead of against them. Why not you?*

————— land your first (and next) publication this year —————

INSIDE YOUR GUIDE TO GETTING PUBLISHED

- » How to render luck powerless in the publication game and finally see your work in print this year.
- » Writing prompts to inspire more than a year's worth of story ideas.
- » Inspiration to keep your writing on track.
- » Where to submit stories so you always know what to do next.
- » Cover letter example + template takes the guesswork out of what to say when you pitch your story
- » How to know which publications are most likely to publish you (cuts waiting time in half).
- » Submission trackers to simplify the process and maximize your chance of getting published each time you hit submit.



Mandy Wallace is a freelance writer, blogger, and mentor to new writers. Her mentorship program, *Blog Your Way to a Writing Career*, takes new writers from unknown to published (one of her students just landed a seven-figure book and movie deal) using the same techniques that drive the publication strategy here.

She says writing success is about skills more than talent, tenacity more than luck, and habit more than willpower.

It's this simple but powerful outlook that encourages the new writers in her community at mandywallace.com to keep writing and keep getting published.