



Week 3 Exercises

Pulling The Elements Together

Write Your Sections Activity

Writing a proposal is a hard slog and sometimes you need support to get through the sections you're not too good at (whether that be marketing, or distilling your idea into a couple of paragraphs). In this activity, we'll be getting you to attempt to fill out two parts of a proposal that is the *hardest* for you and use the support of your peers to power through it.

WHAT TO DO:

Choose two of the sections of a book proposal described in the topic above, and draft them for your own project. Stretch your proposal-writing muscles by picking ones that are particularly difficult for you: this is a great opportunity to overcome obstacles with the help of your fellow students. For example, if you struggle to come up with relevant comparison titles, that would be a great section to draft here.

Post your draft on the **Draft Proposal Forum** and discuss the problems you are having with your sections with your classmates.

Respond to at least two other classmates, helping them come up with new angles (or perhaps helping them pick the most important parts of their story to include in their overview!)



Turning The Tables: Critiquing A Query Letter Activity

Read the example query letter and then discuss what worked and what didn't in the **Turning The Tables Forum**.

Dear Agent,

I have written a 75,000 word, soft crime novel, Six Minutes which is currently being read by one of the big Australian publishing houses (details upon request). The Commissioning Editor, Books for Adults requested that I send her the novel when finished. Presently, I am seeking the services of an agent. Immediately it would be to assist with any negotiations that might eventuate with this publisher but primarily to represent me in the broader market place. The novel has not been seen by any other house. A synopsis and sample chapter follow.

I write about lawyers ... because I am one, or was one, until I turned from the dark side. The characters of Six Minutes were born of extreme boredom, on the back of a never-ending list of exhibits, during the longest (and possibly, most excruciating) Supreme Court trial in Queensland's history. Somewhere in between noting details of cheque-but number 193 and 1500, the whole plot took shape.

Hennessy Clark has just fired three of its best litigators for something they didn't do. They weren't friends before; but they are now. Sandra Jeeves, the pug-like, binge-drinking, sex-obsessed senior associate had dedicated her life to the Brisbane law firm. She had nothing else – no man, no kids, no pets. What's a girl to do? And didn't their night together mean anything? Frances Mackay, employment law expert, is the exact opposite. Secure, restrained, refined, Hepburnesque. But again, the firm was her life. What nasty thing did she do in the middle of a school-night to warrant this? Andrea Toohey, the managing partner's former extra-marital squeeze, started it all by getting pregnant to him.

I've been writing for love and laundry money for well over a decade. I am finally completing a PhD in Philosophy (by research, part time, external) on the quest to turn out a believable, authentic novel, beyond what basic advice is available in how-I and how-to manuals and writing memoirs. There is a gap in the market for books on advanced writing techniques. I have been a presenter at writing conferences, tutored in writing and been a guest speaker at my local law faculty. I have also written: published book reviews, dental/medical patient education and marketing material, web content, legal briefs, policies, procedures and technical training manuals. In subtle ways, these experiences all flavour my favourite work: novel writing.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I look forward to your feedback.

Kind regards,

Theresa L



Submit Your Proposal Activity

This activity will take up most of your time this week.

Having read and listened to all of the tips that Sally has shared, together with the research you did last week, write your full proposal and submit it to the tutor by email:

submissions@awmonline.com.au.

Make sure you label your email subject heading as “Pitching To Publisher – [INSERT YOUR NAME HERE] – Proposal. Your tutor will read your work and share some specific feedback with you.



Help

If you do not understand these activities or what is required of you, then post a question into the **Q&A Forum Thread**. The Site Administrator or one of your fellow course mates will offer you some advice. If you find you require further help contact the Queensland Writers Centre via email on support@awmonline.com.au or call during business hours, Monday to Friday, AEST, on (07) 3842 9952

Week 3 Exercise Checklist

- Draft Proposal Activity:** Fill out two parts of your proposal for your book that are hardest for you. Post your draft in the **Draft Proposal Forum** and discuss any problems you had with your peers.
- Turning The Tables Activity:** Critique the sample query letter provided in the **Turning The Tables Forum**.
- Submit Your Proposal Activity:** Finish your proposal in full and email it to your tutor for feedback at: submissions@awmonline.com.au Please make your subject heading the following: "Pitching To Publishers – [INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]". If your email is not properly labelled your submission may not receive feedback in time.