

# Make Your Writing Great!

With Cindy Rushton

# From Your Brain to Your Paper...

UHSE-2009

See Our Website TODAY!  
[Http://www.CindyRushton.com](http://www.CindyRushton.com)

# Choose Your Topic...

- Brainstorm
- Keep an “Idea Notebook”

# Brainstorming...

## Ask Yourself...

- What would you like to write about?
- What are your greatest interests?
- What have you been reading and studying?
- What would you like to learn about?

# Brainstorming...

## Ask Yourself...

- What do you enjoy spending your time doing?
- What types of books do you enjoy reading? Could you write a book like that? Could you write a story like that?
- What do people ask you about?

# Brainstorming...

## Ask Yourself...

- If you could share about something you love with everyone, what comes to mind?

# Keep an “Idea Notebook”

- Ideas have their “spot” to be kept.
- Your brain can take a break to focus fully on your current project.
- Helps develop your work.
- Always have an idea to work on—less “Writer’s Block” along the way.

# How to Set Up Your Idea Notebook...

- Get Supplies
  - ◆ 3-ring binder
  - ◆ Dividers
  - ◆ Paper
  - ◆ Pens/pencils/markers/highlighters
  - ◆ Sheet protectors
  - ◆ “Post-it” notes



# How to Set Up Your Idea Notebook...

- Include Ideas...
  - ◆ Ideas for essays
  - ◆ Ideas for booklets
  - ◆ Ideas for books
  - ◆ Ideas for projects
- Outlines
- Quotes

# How to Set Up Your Idea Notebook...

- Carry your notebook with you.
- Use your “Idea Notebook” as your writing companion

# Tips for a Great Project...

- Get a vision!
- Brainstorm again.
  - ◆ Fires up your brain!
  - ◆ Gathers and organizes all of those ideas floating around your brain.
  - ◆ Sorts through ideas and thoughts. Pulls them together into an outline and text.

# How???

- Jot down ideas in a list
- Mind map

# What to Brainstorm...

- What do others need to know about your topic?
- What do you know?
- Any steps to remember?
- Any tips?
- What do you think needs to be known—steps, dates, tips, people, events, topics

# Outline

- The skeleton of your writing.
- The framework of your writing.
- Organizes all of the information into a format that flows.
- Helps us to see how everything goes together.
- Guides the writing process toward the vision of the project.
- Gives structure.

# Outline

- Makes the final decisions on what will go into your writing project.

# How to Outline Your Project...

- Decide on your topic.
- Brainstorm.
- Look over all of your ideas.
  - ◆ Choose 3-5 key points to write about.
  - ◆ Try to fit information into those key points.
  - ◆ Fit any details.



# How to Outline Your Project...

- Put into logical order.
  - ◆ Sequential
    - ★ Time
    - ★ Order
    - ★ Steps
  - ◆ Nice flow
- Fill in any gaps.

# Write Your Heart Out...

- Write a rough draft.
  - ◆ NOTE: rough draft!!
    - ★ Don't expect for it to be perfect.
    - ★ Expect many re-writes.
  - ◆ Focus on getting your ideas on paper.
  - ◆ Write as though you are talking to a dear friend. (picture them)
  - ◆ Use your outline as your guide.

# Write Your Heart Out...

- Don't worry about editing now.
- Find the best way for your writing to flow...
  - ◆ Typing on the computer.
  - ◆ Hand-writing in a journal.
  - ◆ Dictating it to your parent or into a tape-recorder.
  - ◆ Writing on notecards.

# Write Your Heart Out...

- Get your ideas out of your brain and down on paper.
- Use your outline.
  - ◆ To keep on track
  - ◆ To trigger ideas in a good flow
  - ◆ To keep you from forgetting any details or steps.
- Share your heart!

# Write Your Heart Out...

- Don't forget!
  - ★ Include all steps
  - ★ Fill in any bits of information that your reader may not know—terms, details that have interested you in the past, bits of information that are not commonly known.
  - ★ Teach what you know.
    - NOTE! Others do not know what you know. Share! Others will love it!

# Write Your Heart Out...

- Monitor to stay on topic.
- Constantly evaluate to be sure that you have a good flow.

# Proofreading...

Ready to polish that manuscript?

Tips:

- ◆ Constantly look for ways to make your writing better.
  - ★ Read!
  - ★ Study writing.
  - ★ Notice the little things.
  - ★ Constantly work to make your writing better and better.

# Proofreading...

How??? Test your writing...

- Remember your reader
  - ◆ How do you speak to your reader?
  - ◆ Do you teach what you know?
  - ◆ Are you contagious?
  - ◆ Is your writing appealing—sweet, relaxed, fun, happy, positive, encouraging, inspiring?
  - ◆ Are you passing on your passion?



# Proofreading...

How??? Test your writing...

- Check for gaps
  - ◆ Are you assuming your reader knows anything? Go back and explain
  - ◆ Did you share neat details?
  - ◆ Are you specific enough?

# Proofreading...

How??? Test your writing...

- Check for common errors...
  - ◆ Use a checklist (like ours—in Homemade Books or Language Arts the Easy Way).
    - ★ Spelling
    - ★ Punctuation
    - ★ Verb tense
    - ★ Sentence structure

# Proofreading...

- ★ Grammar
- ★ Style
- ◆ Find any quirks—need help? Ask a friend or family member to read over it.

# Proofreading...

How??? Test your writing...

- Evaluate your choice of words and phrases.
  - ◆ Watch for repetitive words or phrases.
  - ◆ Watch for weak words.
  - ◆ Be real! Don't try to impress with words—make it readable.

# Proofreading...

How??? Test your writing...

- Check back over facts/details.
- Get critiques along the way.

# Re-write, Re-write, Re-Write!

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30

# Set-up In Final Format!

- Decide how to present.
  - ◆ In a paper?
  - ◆ In a booklet?
  - ◆ In a book?
  - ◆ In an article?
  - ◆ On a blog?

# Set-up In Final Format!

- Study how it should look.
- Try out several looks.
- Set up consistently—watch for little things!
- Make all final corrections.
- Set aside.
- Go back over everything one more time.



# Set-up In Final Format!

- Save!!!
- Print out hard-copies.
- Share!
  - ◆ Gifts.
  - ◆ Swap with a friend.
  - ◆ Submit for contests.
  - ◆ Make “readers” for your siblings.
  - ◆ Begin your own business!

# Become a Better Writer...

- Keep an “Idea Notebook.”
- Read widely.
- Set up your own “Writer’s Nook.”
- Use those “Old Paths.”
- Try new technology.
- Try your hand at different types of writing.
- Write what you love.