

Turn Your Idea into a Publication

Kelly Jensen

Book Riot

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an ALCTS Virtual Symposium • January 13, 2015



A Little About Me...

- Currently: Editor/Community Manager for Book Riot (bookriot.com); former teen and youth services public librarian
- Author, *It Happens: A Guide to Contemporary Realistic Fiction for the YA Reader* (VOYA Press, 2014)
- Published pieces in [VOYA](#), [School Library Journal](#), [The Horn Book Magazine](#), and [More](#).



Organizing Your Writing

3 Key Questions for Any Writing Project:

- What are you writing?
- Why are you writing it?
- Who are you writing it for?

Organizing Your Writing

- Craft a strong pitch by using your what, why, and who

My name is Kelly Jensen and I am a teen librarian at Beloit Public Library, as well as a blogger at STACKED (stackedbooks.org). I wanted to get in touch about how to submit an article to SLJ, and I saw you as the contact person for that.

I'd love to write a feature on YA horror books -- there's been a growth in horror over the last few years outside of paranormal titles, and I'd love to explore that a bit and share what these books are, why they're important, and the ways of incorporating them into library collections/services/book discussions (I'm thinking along the lines of Bonnie Kunzel's "Love Bites: The Best New Paranormal" but with a broader range of horror).

Let me know how or where the proper channels of pitching this may be.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you!

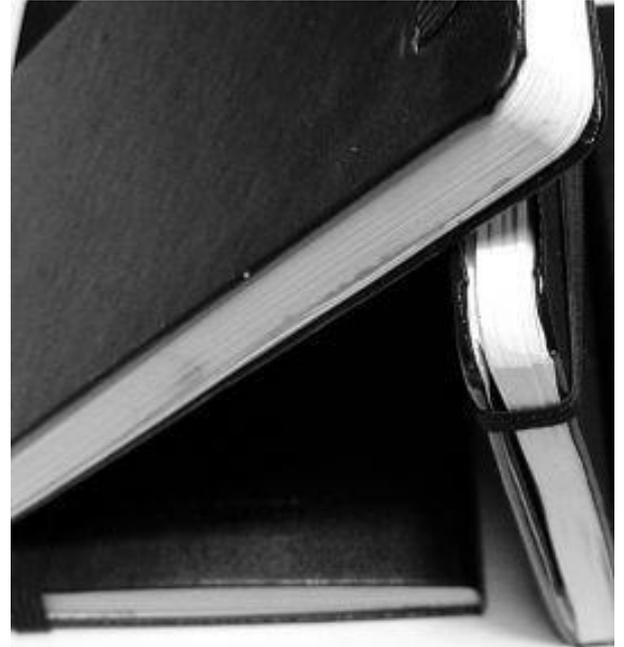
Kelly

Organizing Your Writing

- Make an outline
- Create a workflow
- Allow for space, shape, and flexibility

Useful Tools for Organizing

- Pocket -- getpocket.com
- Skitch
- Any spreadsheet tool
- Post-it notes, highlighters, index cards, notebooks, and other “analog” tools



Analyzing Data from Research

- Quantitative vs. Qualitative
- Use your what, why, and who and your outline to guide research synthesis
- Determine what needs to be used in-text and what can be used for back matter or a resource list

Finding Time to Write



- Schedule it into your daily or weekly agenda
- Regularly assess your time budget
- Make it a routine

Pushing Through Writer's Block

- You can't edit a blank page
- Move on to something you're looking forward to writing
- Talk it out
- Take a break with another creative pursuit

Working with Collaborators

- Set goals, expectations, and deadlines
- Collaborative tools
- Flexibility is key



From Blog to Published Work

- What, Why, and Who: Idea generation and growth
- Your blog shows your credentials
- Your passion work matters

Questions?

Thank you!

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