

Title of Session: Publishing Your Work
Moderator: Debra Sprague
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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

DebraSp: Hello, Melva. Welcome

MelvaP: Hi I'm new to this

BJ: we all start out as newbies, Melva

DebraSp: Are you interested in publishing or just exploring, Melva?

MelvaP: That's reassuring

MelvaP: I'm interested and thought I'd listen in and get advice

BJ: great, Melva.

DebraSp: That's wonderful! It might be a small group tonight.

MelvaP: OK

BJ: to help you follow the dialogue, go to the actions menu in the top right of your chat window...

BJ: and click on detach

MelvaP: Thanks, That helped out

BJ: I've just started working on an article for school arts magazine, Debra...

BJ: I'm not sure if this is the place to share or writetalk?

DebraSp: That's great, BJ. have you published other articles?

EileenLa joined the room.

BJ: online and in some CEA publications

DebraSp: Hello, Eileen

EileenLa: Hello! Not sure why I couldn't get in... but here I am!

BJ: the magazine was looking for projects on 'identity' and I have one I started developing a lesson this year

BJ waves hi to Eileen

DebraSp: Welcome!

BJ hopes Debra's connection is ok

DebraSp: Has it been accepted or are you still working on it?

DebraSp: Sitting in on this discussion every month should give you lots of pointers, BJ.

BJ: I'm working on it...but when I sent the idea to the publisher they asked me to submit

DebraSp: Fantastic!

BJ: only have a couple paragraphs written so far...want to take a look?

BJ . o O (to see if I'm communicating the idea)

MelvaP: What magazine will your article be in BJ?

DebraSp: I would be happy to take a look.

BJ: School Arts

MelvaP: Yes

BJ: this is the first paragraph

BJ: The ability to communicate feelings, thoughts, ideas, viewpoints and opinions empowers an individual to educate others about their identity. Through this empowerment, teaching tolerance for others is also integrated into the curriculum. As an art teacher, I use visual art as the medium for learning these communication skills.

DebraSp: That's a great start.

BJ: clear?

MelvaP: I like your paragraph. I'm a Speech Language Pathologist and I agree that we must teach tolerance and how to effectively communicate ideas

BJ: thanks, Melva. This is the next part I've done...

DebraSp: I am not sure about the second sentence. It seems a big leap from the first. You might need another sentence first.

BJ: My turbulent teens needed a vehicle through which they could not only focus on their current identity, but also think about how their identity would define them as they moved into the adult world.

BJ Nods to Debra about adding a sentence

BJ: once I get these two paragraphs done, the rest is a piece of cake!

DebraSp: Those four sentences carry a lot of ideas that could be further developed throughout the article. It is a good start that should catch the readers interest.

DebraSp: Getting started is often the hardest.

BJ nods. I'm finding it very difficult

DebraSp: Eileen and Melva, what aspects about publishing are you interested in?

DebraSp: Sometimes, BJ, I write the rest of the article and then come back to the beginning. Get the ideas down first.

BJ: I made a list of topics I want to cover and then put them in the order they should go

DebraSp: That is a good plan.

MelvaP: I have never published but I have been told that I have unique ideas that I should share. I guess I'm not sure what aspect I'm interested in. I'm searching for info. Any ideas of places to go for info?

EileenLa: I've always been interested in writing, but have never tried to get published. I've a lot to learn before I attempt that!

DebraSp: Are you looking for the right journal to submit too, Melva?

DebraSp: The best place to start is by reading the journals you are interested in sending something to so you can see what type of articles they publish.

MelvaP: I want to explore some ideas and share with others before I publish, however, it can't see it hurting if I started looking into journals

DebraSp: Every journal has author guidelines that tell you what they accept.

EileenLa: Do you find Debra that most of the people who come into this chat are ready to publish?

MelvaP: I'll start paying attention to that from now on

DebraSp: It might help to start with a practitioner's magazine first, instead of a research journal.

DebraSp: Eileen, the answer to your question is no.

MelvaP: Good IDEA. I'm new to this so I need all the advice, help and prayers I can get

DebraSp: A few people are ready to publish and some have already published. But most haven't and like the two of you, they want to learn the process.

EileenLa: Yes, Olo

EileenLa: Sorry - I meant to say that the process must be long and tedious!

DebraSp: There are different types of journals and the process varies depending on the type of journal you are submitting to.

MelvaP: BJ, I enjoyed what you have written so far, and I look forward to reading more of your article

DebraSp: Actually, the process might not be as tedious as you think, although it can be long depending on the journal.

BJ: thanks, Melva.

DebraSp: Let me explain the process.

BJ listens to Debra

DebraSp: Step one is to decide which journal you want to submit to. You want to write the article to meet the interest of the readers so you want to know who reads the journal.

DebraSp: Does the journal go to university faculty? to teachers? to specific teachers, like Art or Reading? To speech pathologists? Each of these audiences need to have the article written in a different way.

DebraSp: Step two, read the author's guidelines. If you do not follow the guidelines the article will be rejected, no matter how good it is. The guidelines tell you page limits, font to use, how to submit the article, how the references are to be listed, and how figures and tables are to be addressed.

BJ writes down that reminder

DebraSp: Step Three, write the article. This is the hardest part of the process because you are putting your thoughts and ideas out there for other's to read and critique. That can be scary. but if you don't then you can't join the community of scholars. So jump in and write the article.

DebraSp: Step four, submit the article for review. Send it to the journal, guidelines will tell you how. Some want electronic submissions, some want paper versions.

DebraSp: The next steps are out of your control, but here is what happens once the article reaches the hands of the editor.

DebraSp: Step five depends on rather or not the journal is peer-reviewed. If it is not, the editor will read the article and make a decision as to rather or not he or she wants to publish it.

DebraSp: If the journal is peer-reviewed, as mine is, the editor sends the article out to two or three reviewers. The editor then gets the reviews back from the reviewers and makes a decision as to rather or not to publish it.

DebraSp: Step six is notification to the author. You will get a letter saying one of three things. First, the dreaded rejection letter. This one is what everyone fears, but we have all gotten them at one time or another.

DebraSp: Sometimes the article needs too much work to be published. Other times it is not a good match for the journal you submitted it to.

DebraSp: If you get the rejection letter read the comments from the editor and reviewer. If it is a case that it is not a good fit, find another journal to submit it to. Some other journal make like it. If it is a case it needs to be rewritten, then rewrite it. Don't give up.

BJ appreciates Debra's encouragement

DebraSp: The second response you could get is Accept with Revisions. This means the journal is interested in the article, but they would like you to revise it somewhat. Again read what they are saying and do what they say. Follow the time line. If they want it back in two weeks make sure it is back in two weeks. If not, it will be rejected because journals have timelines as well.

BJ: from working for a printer for a number of years, the deadline is always yesterday!

DebraSp: The third option is the one we all want to receive...the acceptance letter. This means the article is great and they will publish it. Rarely do you receive this letter when you submit the article. Most always there are revisions required.

DebraSp: I need to put all this on note cards so I don't have to type this every month.

DebraSp grins

BJ smiles...or at least put it on a word processor...then you can copy and paste

EileenLa: True

MelvaP: This has been great advice. I appreciate the step by step info. It lets me know what is expected and gives me some insight on how to get started. I appreciate your taking the time out to explain the process.

DebraSp: What step am I on? Oh yes, step seven. The article has been accepted and proofread by the copy editor. You will see the copy proofs. These are the pages that show you exactly what the article would look like when it goes to press.

BJ: Debra leads this discussion each month, Melva. She always has wonderful suggestions.

MelvaP: I can't wait until next month. I do however have a question, will I receive a transcript of this chat. I'd hate to have to write all the steps down.

DebraSp: You will have the opportunity to check these over and correct any typos and errors in the article. Once you approve the page proofs (again pay attention to the due date) the journal is sent to the printer and you will see your article published!

BJ: yes, about 10 minutes after you log out, Melva, you will receive your transcript in your email

MelvaP: Thanks

DebraSp: Yes, I want a transcript also so I can copy and paste all of these into a word document so I don't have to write it next month.

DebraSp laughs

BJ chuckles. You'll be too busy reading the articles Melva and Eileen write, Debra!

DebraSp: That is true. I read about 20 articles a month.

MelvaP: Thanks for the encouragement, but I still have some time before I start, but I am sure after a few more of these informational chats, I'll be ready to roll

BJ: Melva, one thing I think Debbie will agree on is that the more you write the easier it gets

EileenLa: Thanks for your help!

DebraSp: Here is a great article on getting published that gives great advice for someone getting started. <http://www.citejournal.org/vol4/iss2/editorial/article1.cfm>

BJ . o O (that is the advice that Sandy Shattuck gives for the write talk projects too.)

DebraSp: I am going to see if I can republish this in my journal as it has wonderful advice.

MelvaP: Debra, what is the name of your Journal?

DebraSp: I agree, BJ. The more you write the easier it is. Another way to learn to write is to volunteer to be a reviewer for a journal

DebraSp: The Journal of Technology and teacher Education

DebraSp: <http://www.aace.org/pubs/jtate/default.htm>

DebraSp: Do you have other questions I can answer? We have about 8 minutes left.

EileenLa: I've enough to start thinking! Thanks

MelvaP: Again, thanks for all your helpful advice. I will read the article you suggest and look into your journal as well. Thanks again

DebraSp: You are both welcome. Thank you for coming to the discussion.

MelvaP: Chat again with you next month

BJ: thanks, Debbie. See you on March 22

MelvaP: Goodbye!!

DebraSp: Great! I look forward to it. Hopefully I will have new advice for you.