

**Dana Kisor**


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**From:** cindybarrilleau@aweber.com on behalf of Cindy Barrilleaux [cindy@writeyourbest.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2009 9:26 AM  
**To:** Friend  
**Subject:** Writing Tips from Cindy Barrilleaux, Write Your Best

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**Write Your  
Best** August 2009 Newsletter  
Cindy Barrilleaux

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**Dear Friend,**

You have received this newsletter because a while ago you expressed an interest in writing. Hope you find it useful!

Do you have questions about writing or publishing? Send them to me at [cindy@writeyourbest.com](mailto:cindy@writeyourbest.com) and I'll answer them in the next newsletter.

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### Coming Soon: The ABC's of Getting Published

So many people have asked me about how to get published--whether they should self-publish, or get an agent, or write an e-book, etc.--that I've decided to offer a 3-part teleseminar to answer all the questions I get and more. Don't wait until you're finished writing to learn the ins and outs of publishing. The sooner you know your options, the more focused your writing decisions will be.

The ABC's of Getting Published  
 3 Mondays: Sept 14, 21, 28;  
 7-8 pm ET; 6-7 pm CT; 5-6 pm MT; 4-5 pm PT

Put this on your calendar. You'll receive a full description, cost and a link to the registration page in a week.

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**For the Love of It**

A client recently told me that every tiny step of working on her book is so hard for her it hurts her bones. She's not

**Quotes for Writers**

"My first success, 'Flowering Judas,' took me only five and a half hours to write -- after eight years of cogitation."

--Katherine Ann Porter



"I'm not a very good writer, but I'm an excellent rewriter."

--James Michener

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**Recommended Reading**

*Essays of E.B. White*,  
 published by Harper Perennial.

Anyone who wants to learn the craft of writing can do no better than read and re-read these essays. Newsweek magazine wrote, "In genial, perfectly poised essay after essay, he has wielded the English language with as much

alone, either. Many many writers struggle hard. I admire the determination and vision that they live by.

And then there are those who write because it's fun, and leave the worrying to others. Last Sunday I met Anna, a 15-year-old writer. She has just finished her first novel (almost 200 pages) and has started her second. She told me the conflict within the story, the writing problems she came up against and solved, and the plan for her new novel. She plans to make writing a career.

Anna writes because she loves to. She writes because she can. Nothing makes it any easier for her than for the rest of us, except her attitude. Her life is as busy as anyone else's, and given her age, as stressful. She doesn't worry about publishing or the opinion of others, or whether she's good enough.

Next time you sit down to write, try an experiment: imagine you are as free as Anna to write because you want to, and enjoy yourself.

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## Focus, Daniel-san!

I've been fumbling with how to announce the publication of a client's book (see below). What's so hard about that? Nothing. So why did I get stuck? It's a classic writing problem: lack of focus.

Just last month I taught a teleclass on what makes a good writer and discussed the importance of focus. I talked about the need to decide the point you want to make and stick to it. Don't fuzzy it up with other issues. That may seem obvious, but it's not when you're the writer being unfocused. It took 20 minutes of stop and start writing to realize what was going on. I was trying to piggyback comments about the coaching relationship onto my real point, the announcement.

The solution to lack of focus in writing? Decide what point needs to be made first in terms of logic or impact or desire, and make it. Often you'll find the competing ideas become unnecessary, or you'll see the logical place for them.

Here's how I handled the problem: I decided to bare my writing foibles first, to remind you of a basic writing truth. Next will come the no-longer fuzzy announcement, because I want it to get attention. Then my now-brief comment on relationship will follow logically, since it was triggered by my client's success. So please, read on.

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## Congratulations to Karen Gail Lewis



on the publication of her most recent book, *Why Don't You Understand? A Gender Relationship Dictionary*.

clarity and control as any American of his time." Imitation is the best way to learn. Imitate the best.

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## Recommended Website

<http://www.theslot.com>



This is billed as a site for copy editors, but it will help anyone who is in the polishing stage of their writing. Great tips on grammar and usage. Well-organized and easy to access.

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## More Resources for Writers

To see more Recommended Books and Websites for Writers, visit the Resources/Links page on my website: [www.writeyourbest.com/resources](http://www.writeyourbest.com/resources)

If you're in an intimate relationship with a member of the opposite sex, or ever hope to be, get this book. (It's actually useful for any relationship, in my view). Karen is an expert on gender communication and relationship problems. This book can save relationships. For more information, or to order it, go to <http://www.genderdictionary.com>. Check out Karen's website too. It has information about her workshops, retreats and special offers: <http://www.drkarengailewis.com>.

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## It's All in the Relationship

Nothing is more intimate than a person's writing. I think that's why the relationship that develops between an editor/coach and a writer is unusual and wonderful. Working together over the course of months and sometimes years creates a bond of respect, honesty, trust and affection. Between the laughter and arguments are times of elation when an epiphany arrives.

When people ask how I work, I say that it's all in the relationship. Editing brilliance and writing magic fall flat if the editor and writer don't have a strong relationship that fosters collaboration. Whether or not the relationship continues after the writing is completed, as it sometimes does, I get deep pleasure in announcing the completion and/or publication of the writer's work.

If you'd like me to announce your finished article or book, but are having difficulty getting started, check out my website, [www.WriteYourBest.com](http://www.WriteYourBest.com). There are articles about writing, and recommended books and websites. You may also want to consider writing coaching to help you over the hurdles. You'll see my Introductory Special Offer on the home page.

Happy Writing!

Cindy Barrilleaux  
Writing Coach

PS--If you know anyone who would be interested in this newsletter, please pass it on to them.

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Cindy Barrilleaux, 2009. Writing Coaching Services,  
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