Query Letter!

You know you gotta



A Query Letter, is a short and sweet one page (300 words) note introducing yourself to an agent and asking if they're interested in representing your book.



First, you need to understand what an agent is and does for you...

Agent: Steven Hutson, WordWise Media

Literary agents (aka authors' representatives), serve as intermediaries between writers and potential employers such as publishers and television producers.

ES: ENGLISH





In addition to finding a publisher to publish your manuscript, agents also negotiate contracts, pursue publicity, and advise clients in their careers.

Agent: Mona Kanin, Great Dog Literary

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EXAMPLES OF A BOOK DEAL $
A 'Nice' deal = $50,000
A 'Very Nice' deal = $50,000 -
$99,000
A 'Good' deal = $99,000 -
$250,000
A 'Significant' deal = $250,000 -
$499,000
A 'Major' deal = $500,000+
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All agents require a query letter for novels, poetry, screen plays, and nonfiction book ideas.

It introduces you and your work!

NO MORE THAN 300 WORDS!

Fiction Authors – you need to have a finished and polished manuscript before you begin querying.

Non-Fiction Authors – you need a book proposal.



1st Paragraph



1st paragraph (1 to 2 sentences)

Introduction (your bond – what you have in common... think as if you were dating this person).

This is your opening paragraph, your hello.



Example of an Introduction:

Dear [Agent's Name], I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am seeking representation for my debut novel. After researching agents and reading about your agency, I feel that you would be a great fit for my work.

2nd Paragraph



2nd paragraph (1 to 2 sentences)

Your book's hook!

Probably the most important line(s) in your query. The hook: the description of your story and the most critical query element; 150-300 words is sufficient for most narrative works.

Your hook should offer a moment of intrigue, peak the reader's interest, provide an interesting factoid that leaves the reader wanting to read more.



Example of a Hook:

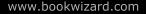
My novel, [Title], is a captivating story of love, loss, and redemption set against the backdrop of [Unique Setting]. This work of [Genre] will transport readers into a world of [Unique Element] and leave them breathless with its vivid characters, emotional depth, and breathtaking plot twists.

3rd Paragraph



3rd paragraph (1 to 2 sentences)

The housekeeping: your book's genre, category, word count, title/subtitle, sticky mash up



Example of

Genre:

[Title] is a work of [Genre]. It is a [Description of Genre] that is sure to appeal to fans of [Similar Authors or Books].

Word Count:

The manuscript is approximately [Word Count] words in length, and it has been professionally edited to ensure the highest quality of writing.

Stick Mashup:

[Title] is a perfect mashup of [Two Genres] with the heart and soul of [Unique Element]. Think [Comp Title 1] meets [Comp Title 2] with a dash of [Unique Element].

4th Paragraph





4th paragraph (1 to 2 sentences)

Bio note; something about yourself, usually 50-100 words, writing credentials,

For non-fiction -

what makes you an expert on the topic, your industry knowledge/activity, author platform information.

Example of Bio:

I am an aspiring author with a passion for storytelling. While this is my first novel, I have been writing for [Amount of Time] and have received [Awards, Publications, or Other Accomplishments]. I am an active member of [Writing Group or Community] and have worked tirelessly to perfect my craft. I am excited about the opportunity to work with an agent who shares my passion for literature and is dedicated to helping me achieve my dreams.

5th Paragraph



5th paragraph (1 sentence)

Thank you and closing; final details, whether your manuscript (mss) has been professionally edited,

for non-fiction – if the proposal is finished.



Example of Close:

My manuscript was professionally edited by [Editor's Name].

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Best regards, [Your Name]

> Total wordcount = 277 https://chat.openai.com/

What agents DON'T like

- Words in Bold
- Pictures
- Talking about more than one book in a query
- Not having a finished manuscript (fiction writers)
- Poor story telling (fiction writers)





- Querying more than one agent at a time (and then not telling them)
- Querying the wrong agent (they don't represent your genre – wasting their time)
- Not having the right amount of word count for the genre
- Typos
- Bragging



- Lies
- Being rude
- Asking for free advice
- Making them think or do work just to read your query
- Emailing them to find out if they read it

Submission Guidelines





Pitch your query on BookWizard Hub's new mobile app platform.

Look for: BookWizard-Author