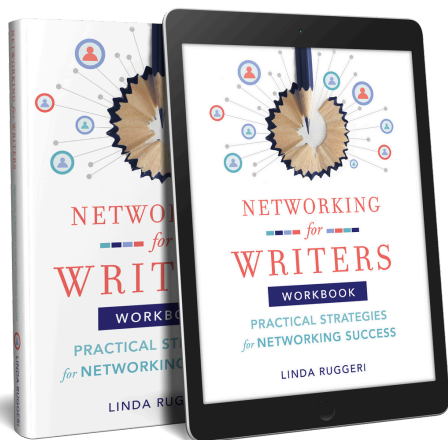




# Networking-Prep Guide for Writers

*for successful networking experiences*

By Linda Ruggeri



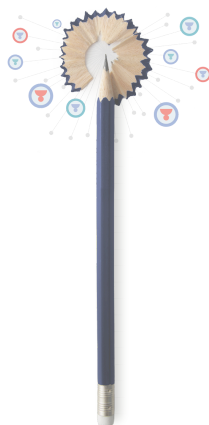
[www.theinsightfuleditor.com](http://www.theinsightfuleditor.com)

Copyright 2025 by The Networking Studio

*“When should you use this booklet? The moment you have a writing project in mind. Don’t wait until you complete your manuscript to approach the subject of networking. Dedicate a few minutes every day to reading and working on some of the exercises in this booklet. I like to read and work on them first thing in the morning for about twenty minutes with my first cup of coffee. But you may prefer to tackle the subject late at night, after you’ve completed your writing goal of the day. It doesn’t matter when you use it, but that you do a little bit every day.*

*Once you start building trusted, two-way relationships with individual writers, you may find there’s so much knowledge and support being shared that you want to start connecting members of your network with each other. (Remember, just because it’s a small network doesn’t mean all the members know each other; it just means you know them because they are in your network.) And here’s the great thing about this approach to networking—it spreads the benefits and builds community, instead of hoarding them and reinforcing isolation.”*

Excerpt from *Networking for Writers: Practical Strategies for Networking Success*



# My Talking Points

*How do I want people to remember me and my work?* Use this space to write down ideas about what you want people to remember about your book, or you as a writer. Or, think about what do you need help with. Are you looking for publishing service providers and need recommendations? Are you looking for ARC or BETA readers? Make sure to list what you need help with right now.

.....

**Using the information above, now try to introduce yourself and your work:**

- My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ (genre) writer, My book is about \_\_\_\_\_
- I live in \_\_\_\_\_.
- My pronouns are \_\_\_\_\_ (include if comfortable).
- (Optional) I need help with \_\_\_\_\_.

# My Talking Points

Knowing your talking points is a great way to feel at ease when encountering potential networking situations. Knowing these few things can help you focus your networking efforts and message.

## Go deeper:

### *Internal*

What part of my writing am I most passionate about?

What do I want to be known for as a person? How can I share this aspect of myself?

What do I want to be known for professionally? How can I share this skill/knowledge?

### *External*

How can I use my knowledge, network, and empathy to help the person I'm talking with?

# My Listening Skills

Networking depends on both sharing and listening.

*Which of these active listening techniques can I practice more often?*

- Refrain from interrupting.
- Listen without judging, or jumping to conclusions.
- Ask if the other person would like suggestions before you offer them.\*\*
- Don't impose your opinions or solutions.
- Listen instead of planning what to say next.
- Stay focused.
- Ask questions.

\*Adapted from the magazine *Heart Matters* by the British Heart Foundation.

\*\*Thank you to editor Ebonye Gussine Wilkins for this one!

# My Listening Skills

Asking questions can also be a way of networking.

If you find yourself at a loss for words, here are a few starter questions to keep the conversation flowing:

- What made you decide to come to\_\_\_\_\_ (location/event)?
- What are you most looking forward to at this event? Do you have any recommendations for me?
- What's been your favorite thing so far?
- What are you currently reading?
- What are you working on currently?

.....

For other ideas on how to prepare for the conference, check out  
my blog series  
"Prepare for Any Networking Event" at  
<https://www.theinsightfuleditor.com/blog>

# Finding My Network

Here are some organizations with events you can participate in to help grow your network

- American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW)
- Asian American Writers' Workshop
- Asociación Mexicana de Editores de Revistas Biomédicas (AMERBAC)
- Black Writers Collective
- Editorial Freelancers Association (EFA)
- Freelancers Union
- Historical Novel Society
- Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA)
- Indigenous Editors Association
- LGBTQ+ Editors Association
- Minnesota Book Publishers Assn.
- Mystery Writers of America
- National Association of Independent Writers and Editors (NAIWE)
- National Association of Science Writers
- Indigenous Journalists Association (IJA)
- Nonfiction Authors Association
- Publishing Professionals Network
- Romantic Novelist Association (RNA)
- Sisters in Crime
- Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)
- The Authors Guild
- The Children's Book Council
- The Poetry Foundation
- The Society of Authors (UK)
- Trans Journalists Association
- Women Fiction Writers
- Writers Guild of America East
- Writers Guild of America West

Volunteering is a great way for people to get to know you and your work, and is a major networking superpower. All of the organizations listed above will most likely have volunteer opportunities available. Intentional and successful networking *is not* transactional, but sometimes it's about what *you* can bring to the table.

## My 2025 Writer Goals

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

.....

### Steps I can take to start reaching goal #1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---