

QUERY GUIDE

Meta-data:

1. Genre (and age group)
2. Word count
3. Comparative titles and why

Bio:

1. Who are you and why are you the one to tell this story?
2. Experiences, awards, organizations, author credits

Hook:

1. Like a logline. What is the hook or premise of your story that makes it different from similar stories?

Blurb/brief synopsis:

1. Who is the protagonist? (protagonist)
2. What do they want at the beginning of the story? (opening want)
3. What happens/changes to start the story? (Inciting incident)
4. Why does that matter? (reasons)
5. What is the goal of the story or the protagonist goal in reaction the 3? (new goal)
6. What/who gets in the way? (Antagonist or antagonistic force)
7. What does this antagonist/force want? (Their why)
8. Conflict statement based on 5, 6, & 7. (conflict)
9. What must the protagonist do to achieve their goal? (obstacles & challenges)

10. What happens if the protagonist achieves their goal?
11. What happens if the protagonist doesn't achieve their goal?
12. Stake statement based on 10 & 11. What's at stake for the protagonist and/or world? (stakes statement)

HOW TO USE YOUR ANSWERS

Use the answers to generate a basic query letter. The templates below can get you started or help you fill in important details you may have missed in your first attempt at a query. This is not the actual blurb or query that you would create. It is a tool to plot out the logical flow of your story and ensure all the components you want to include are highlighted. Use this to rebuild your query or build a new query to post for feedback.

Blurb Template

[Protagonist] wants [opening want] until one day [inciting incident]. Now [new goal] because [reasons], but [antagonist/force] and [conflict]. Protagonist must overcome [obstacles & challenges]. [stakes statement].

Generic Query format

Dear agent-first-name agent-last-name,

Personalization (Why you're sending this to them or a personal connection).

Meta-data (Can be at top or bottom).

Hook (Some agents want this some don't. Optional)

Blurb (1-3 paragraphs)

Meta-data (Can be at bottom or top)

Bio

References

<https://reedsy.com/blog/guide/how-to-write-a-query-letter/>

Here is another method that is similar:

<https://nathanbransford.com/blog/2008/03/query-letter-template>