

Query Do's & Don'ts

What a Query Needs

1. Get to the point. Begin with something like this. I seek representation for TITLE, GENRE, WORD COUNT.
2. Include comps.
3. If interested the agent will continue reading.
4. Remember, sometimes agents are looking for something else no matter how amazing your book or query.
5. The second paragraph should be a brief tease/explanation/description of the book.
6. Include the character, their needs, obstacles, stakes, and the end.
7. This should be brief. A short paragraph.
8. The third paragraph is your bio. Include cred if you have any.
9. Sign off with thank you, hope to hear back from you, thank you for your time etc and include your social media links.
10. Query should fit on single page double spaced!

- Some agents ask for a summary. Have this ready as well. Some specify how many pages of summary. Write the summary using the same tone or style as the book.
- Some agencies have forms you have to fill out. Be prepared with genre, audience, tagline, comparable titles, comparable authors, your bio, summary, and the first few pages.
- A word about comps. It takes time to find them, be prepared to spend time researching it. Go on Amazon and look up books like yours.

What a Query Doesn't Need

1. Too much fluff. Respect the agent's time.
2. Use words like 'riveting' to explain your novel That's an OPINION. Your opinion doesn't count.
3. The genre and word count does not fit into industry standards
4. Too much boring summary.
5. Overly wordy, unnecessary, uncred-worthy about you. (I live in blah blah blah with 2.3 children blah blah blah and my husband and I love to hike and blah blah blah.)
6. Typos.
7. Poor grammar.
8. Awkward sentences.

9. Confusing or illogical sentences.

NEVER RUSH WRITING A QUERY.

- You need to be able to explain your story in ONE SENTENCE.
- You need to be able to explain your story in TWO SENTENCES.
- You need to be able to explain your story in THREE SENTENCES.
- You need to be able to explain your story in a PARAGRAPH.

And each way must be clear, concise, and intriguing.

You can write the most brilliant perfect query and guess what THEY. JUST. AREN'T. INTERESTED. They are looking for something else.

There are tons of blogs and sources for how to write a query. With examples. Follow them! Follow the guidelines.