

Use 1-inch margins on all four sides, 12-pt. type, double spacing.

Add your genre flush right—Picture Book, Chapter Book—Fiction, MG-Nonfiction, YA—Sci-Fi, etc.

## FORMATTING A FIRST PAGE FOR CRITIQUE

**TITLE**

Title as shown. NO OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKER—no names, emails, etc.

Genre

Double space down and paste the first page of your manuscript below the title.

Remember, first-page critiques are anonymous. Do not include your name or any other identifying markers on the manuscript. Your page may end in the middle of a sentence—that often happens. A first page allows industry professionals to provide their first impressions. Why just one page? Because many industry professionals are busy and have limited time in their schedules to read submissions and because a manuscript must capture the attention of the reader from the first line, the first sentence, the first paragraph, and the first page.

As we've always been told, you only get one chance to make a first impression. Make sure your manuscript is free of errors and is spot-on in its presentation. When the critiquers come to the end of your page, your goal is for them to want to read on and/or to request more from you.

The faculty in an intensive will randomly draw first pages from a stack. If your manuscript is chosen, you do not identify it as yours. Your only role in the process is to listen. Don't ask questions, don't engage in conversation about your manuscript, don't attempt to explain, and, above all, do not argue with the critiquers. Listen and learn. Be aware that there may not be time to critique every manuscript. The faculty members will do their best to get to as many manuscripts as possible during the time allotted.

As you listen to other first pages being critiqued you can learn a lot. Listen for trends, common things mentioned throughout the critiques. Listen for what an agent or editor is looking for and not looking for. And listen to see how you can improve your own writing.