

# Publishing Standards RUBRIC

At **Inspired Legacy Publishing**, we publish stories that show the beauty of transformation! Our preferred manuscripts elevate the world and open people's perspectives with powerful words, powerful stories, and powerful wisdom.

***Do you have a story that can change the world?***

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

This is a self-assessment tool for your manuscript. First, answer the questions in Assessment A and record your numbers in the table provided. Then go to Assessment B and locate the rubric for your genre, rating your manuscript and recording the point values in the table provided. Writers who score higher on this assessment are more likely to be accepted for publication and historically are more likely to do well in selling categories. If, after going through this rubric, you feel there is more work to do, please schedule a free writing consultation with Bridget.

## **RECOMMENDED WORD COUNT BY GENRE**

### **Nonfiction**

- Memoir / Autobiography: 60,000 to 85,000 words recommended\*
- Self-help, Thought-leadership, Do-It-Yourself: 45,000 to 70,000 words recommended\*

### **Fiction**

- Novelette: 7,500 to 19,000 words
- Novella: 10,000 to 40,000 words
- Novel: 60,000 to 90,000 words recommended\*

### **Children's Books - dependent upon age**

- Picture books for children up to age eight average 1000 words (though often are shorter)
- Easy readers, ages five to nine: 50-2500 words recommended
- Chapter books, ages seven to ten: 10,000-12,000 words
- Middle grade novels, ages eight to twelve: 20,000-25,000 words
- Young adult novels, ages twelve and up: 35,000 to 45,000 words

**DISCLAIMER: Inspired Legacy Publishing provides this tool for self-measurement only and makes no guarantees regarding acceptance of a manuscript for publication by this or any other publishing house or of its eventual marketability as a published work.**

## Assessment A

- 1 - Strongly disagree
- 2 - Disagree
- 3 - I think so, but not positive
- 4 - Agree
- 5 - Strongly agree

1. My book truly is about powerful transformation.
2. I am clear on my genre.
3. I have had at least a handful of people read my work and they finished it and loved it.
4. I've had at least some professional editing done on the manuscript—it's not full of repetition, grammar and spelling mistakes but takes the reader on a powerful journey from page one to the end.
5. I am committed and excited to become a national and international bestselling author!
6. My word count matches my genre's professional guidelines, as outlined in the introduction on the previous page.  
(\*Going above the recommended upper limits may result in your book not being picked up by traditional publishers and/or not selling as well to your intended reader.)

**Record your numbers:**

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Question 4	
Question 5	
Question 6	

## Assessment B - Find and complete the rubric for your genre only

### RUBRIC FOR NONFICTION - Self-Help / Thought Leadership / Do-it-Yourself

	NEEDS WORK - 1 pt each	AVERAGE - 2 pts each	STRONG - 3 pts each
Standard 1	Theme and message unclear	Theme and message are solid but sound like everyone else	Theme and message are clear, powerful and fresh
Standard 2	Credibility for the author is not strong	Credibility for the author is inherent but not spelled out	Credibility for the author is spelled out and strong
Standard 3	Principles don't build upon each other	Principles are strong singly but don't flow well together	Principles are intelligent, relevant and build upon each other
Standard 4	Chapters struggle with consistency	Chapters are fairly consistent in length and power	Chapters are consistent in quality and have enough value to stand on their own
Standard 5	Stories are either non-existent or don't strongly back principles	Stories may be relevant but could tie in more strongly to principles	Stories are compelling, evocative and concretely relevant to the principles
Standard 6	A character arc is missing	The main character arc could be more compelling	The reader clearly sees a strong character arc - a rise from helplessness to empowered
Standard 7	Research and backup data is irrelevant or missing	Research and backup data are decent	Research and backup data is not only relevant, it's eye-opening
Standard 8	Tools, tips and techniques don't compel the reader	Tools, tips and techniques are fairly solid	Tools, tips and techniques compel the reader to take immediate and effective action

### TALLY YOUR POINTS

Number ranges are only intended as guides to assess a manuscript's construction and writing.

Standard 1		Standard 5	
Standard 2		Standard 6	
Standard 3		Standard 7	
Standard 4		Standard 8	

## RUBRIC FOR NONFICTION - Memoir

	NEEDS WORK - 1 pt each	AVERAGE - 2 pts each	STRONG - 3 pts each
Standard 1	Low quality thematic elements	Decent thematic elements	Strong thematic elements
Standard 2	Doesn't evoke emotion	Decent use of language, spelling and grammar	Voice is uniquely reflective of the author/character and connects emotionally
Standard 3	Doesn't develop trust and affection for the main character	Develops shallow connection for the main character	Develops deep trust and affection for the main character
Standard 4	Only uses visual sense and lacks description or is way too flowery	Uses more than once sense	Utilizes multiple sensory details and balanced description
Standard 5	Doesn't use backstory as a tool	Decent description and backstory with plotlines and character arc	Captivating crises, backstory, and plot lines with unexpected twists in story
Standard 6	Weak in plotlines and/or character arc	The main character arc could be more compelling	Transformational character arc—from victim to victor
Standard 7	Doesn't incorporate crises and overcoming	Brings story to fruition but is lackluster in power to inspire	Inspiring! Leaves the reader better than you found them

### TALLY YOUR POINTS

Number ranges are only intended as guides to assess a manuscript's construction and writing.

Standard 1		Standard 5	
Standard 2		Standard 6	
Standard 3		Standard 7	
Standard 4			

## RUBRIC FOR FICTION

	NEEDS WORK - 1 pt each	AVERAGE - 2 pts each	STRONG - 3 pts each
Standard 1	Low quality thematic elements	Decent thematic elements	Strong thematic elements
Standard 2	Doesn't evoke emotion, trust or the desire to move forward in the story	Decent use of evocative language, spelling and grammar	Voice is uniquely reflective of the author/character and evocative in emotion
Standard 3	Only uses visual sense and lacks description or is way too flowery	Uses more than once sense	Utilizes multiple sensory details and balanced description
Standard 4	Weak use of language, many spelling and grammar mistakes	Decent use of language, spelling and grammar	Excellent use of language
Standard 5	Doesn't use backstory as a tool	Decent description and backstory with plotlines and character arc	Captivating crises, backstory, and plot lines with unexpected twists in story
Standard 6	Weak in plotlines and character arc	The main character arc could be more compelling	Strong character arc, backstory and plot lines

### TALLY YOUR POINTS

Number ranges are only intended as guides to assess a manuscript's construction and writing.

Standard 1		Standard 4	
Standard 2		Standard 5	
Standard 3		Standard 6	

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILDREN’S BOOKS

- 1 - Strongly disagree
- 2 - Disagree
- 3 - I think so, but not positive
- 4 - Agree
- 5 - Strongly agree

1. The story is easy to follow for your chosen age-range
2. It contains colorful and relatable characters
3. The illustrations are meaningful, super high-quality and professional
4. It's relatable to a wide range of children
5. The language is fresh, interesting and varied
6. Important and teachable lessons are included, subtly or overtly
7. The plot is captivating, with a discernible beginning, middle and end!
8. The book is just as entertaining for adults

**Record your numbers:**

Question 1	
Question 2	
Question 3	
Question 4	
Question 5	
Question 6	