

Breaking into Chicken Soup for the Soul
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Chicken Soup for the Soul is an anthology book series. They collect true stories of 1200 words or less on a variety of topics. Each book contains 101 stories. They pay \$200 per story plus 10 copies of the book in which your story appears.

Lessons from my first anthology publication:

1. Be yourself. Write how you talk.
2. The experience you write about needs to be emotional, but not necessarily life-changing.
3. Small experiences, told with emotion, offer poignant moments that readers can relate to. Emotional impact is more important than the subject matter you write about.

Tips to Break into Chicken Soup for the Soul:

1. Check their website often. (www.Chickensoup.com)
2. Pay close attention to the suggestions underneath each possible book topic. These often become chapter titles. If your story fits into one of these topics, you have a huge advantage.
3. If a story deadline gets extended, submit another story.

Guidelines for Writing a Chicken Soup Story:

1. Start writing where the action starts. Opening with dialogue is a good strategy.
2. Show, don't tell. Let the reader into your world and feel what you feel.
3. Write from the heart. Be honest about your struggles, but the story must resolve on a positive note.
4. Don't try to tell your whole life story. It can't be done well in 1200 words, which is the limit for Chicken Soup stories.
5. Wrap-around endings tie up your story with a nice little bow. And the CS people love them!

Overarching Themes of Chicken Soup books:

- Gratitude
- Finding happiness in small or unexpected ways
- Overcoming obstacles
- Looking on the bright side
- Helping others

Upcoming Chicken Soup Deadlines:

- Crazy Families – June 20
- Cats – July 31
- Dogs – July 31
- Stepping Outside My Comfort Zone – July 31
- Advice that Changed My Life – July 31
- Power of Positive Thinking – July 31
- Funny Stories – August 30
- Impact of a Chicken Soup story on me – August 30

VERY regularly, Chicken Soup collects stories on these topics:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Christmas
- Moms
- Getting Healthy
- Angels and Miracles
- Some version of positive thinking, looking on the bright side, being grateful