

# Stirring the Pot

## Writing for *Chicken Soup* for the Soul.

### TOPICS

- What Chicken Soup wants
- What Chicken Soup does not want
- How to stir up a winning Chicken Soup story

### Could I Write for Chicken Soup?

- Open submissions
- Snapshot stories
- Unusually intense, colorful, or influential
- Ordinary people having extraordinary experiences
- Theme based

### What Chicken Soup Wants 1

- True inspirational stories
- First person only
- Takeaway value
- Action, dialogue, conflict, resolution

### What Chicken Soup Wants 2

- General market material
- Word counts under 1200
- Poems geared to theme

### What Chicken Soup Doesn't Want

- Previously published material
- Sermon, essay or eulogy
- Political or controversial story
- Biography or testimony

### Testimony Versus Story

- Don't cross the line into testimony
- Remember Chicken Soup is all about story
- Just tell the story

### **Submitting to Chicken Soup**

- Submit each story only once per book
- Submit via web form only at ChickenSoup.com
- Use pseudonym if desired

### **What to Expect**

- A waiting period
- No rejection letter
- Payment after publication
- Callouts if published

### **Callouts**

- Only available for some titles
- More information than website
- Sent to previous CS contributors and *The Write Life* subscribers

### **Top Five Tips on Writing for CS**

- Follow the guidelines
- Narrow the focus
- Stick to the theme
- Avoid testimony
- Nail the takeaway

**\*Resources:** *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser and *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White