



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

WHAT IS HORROR?

What is so interesting about horror? Jeff Parsons will present his award-winning ideas about writing them and explain his interest in horror. So, you don't write in the horror genre, that's okay, all writers may gain some insight into how to write unique stories.

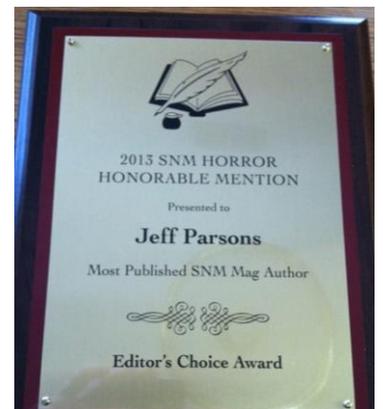
Jeff will share his expertise in getting ideas for stories, any stories. He might even get you novel writers interested in the value of writing short stories. And wait till you hear his experiences in reaching publisher; he will help you learn how to search for just the right publisher.



Jeff Parsons, a professional engineer, enjoys life in sunny California, USA. His long history of technical writing often reads like pure fiction. He credits his inspiration to write to two of his wonderful teachers, William Forstchen and Gary Braver. In addition to his two books, *The Captivating Flames of Madness* and *Algorithm of Nightmares*, he is published in *SNM Horror Magazine*, *Bonded by Blood IV/ V*, *The Horror Zine*, *Dark Gothic Resurrected Magazine*, *Chilling Ghost Short Stories*, *Dystopia Utopia Short Stories*, *Wax & Wane: A Coven of Witch Tales*, *Thinking*

Through Our Fingers, *The Moving Finger Writes*, *Golden Prose & Poetry*, *Our Dance With Words*, *The Voices Within*, *Fireburst - The Inner Circle Writers' Group Second Flash Fiction Anthology 2018*, and *Year's Best Hardcore Horror Volume 4*.

Jeff says he is well-known for being unnoticed in the literary field. More propaganda can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialJeffParsons/>



MEETING INFORMATION

2nd Monday of every month 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting: **Monday, August 12 - Crossroads Christian Fellowship Hall**
5501 Dewey Drive Just north of the Dewey and Madison intersection

All writers are encouraged to attend. Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges

Anthology Update

Work is progressing on the anthology. Each submission must be read and critiqued/edited. It takes time, and the committee is also busy with other aspects of their lives. Do bear with us—we want this anthology to be an excellent indication of our members' writing abilities.

What we've found so far: Most submissions require only minor corrections. We'll make these minor adjustments (commas, spacing, margins, etc.) even though your critique group should have identified them prior to submission.

There have been several pieces submitted that require major redos (either there was no critique group review, or the piece was not suitable as written). The committee cannot make those changes/corrections, so we will return them for you to do. We need you to review the writing, make the recommended changes, and resubmit.

It's always a pleasure to see our work in print, and we'd love to include everyone's submission in the Anthology, but it must be done correctly. So, please make the needed changes and resubmit your work to: — anthology@sactowriters.org — not later than August 18, 2019.

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### 100-Word Flash Fiction Challenge

#### *Winner for this month: Nicole Carver!*

Momma told me the only things holding us back from escaping this town were Daddy and this house. The day Daddy left everything changed. When Momma went to Bingo that night, I gathered up all our nicer belongings and stowed them in the back of Momma's coupe. I took the gas can from the garage and drenched the sofa and beds. When I lit the match, orange and yellow flames burst like fireworks. By the time Momma came back the whole house was engulfed in flames and there was nothing holding us back anymore.

#### *First runner-up: Pat Biasotti*

That was "the moment everything changed" when his friend dared Al to ask that tall, skinny wallflower to dance in Yosemite Valley, the summer of 1948. These two summer employees—he with the road crew for the Park Service, she a waitress at Degnan's Restaurant—hit it off. For a first date they climbed the Yosemite Falls trail. She loved nature and hiking, a far cry from his present girlfriend, a beautiful model whose hose seams and hairdo had to be perfect. That first date lasted for nearly fifty years until Al, my husband, died.

### 100-Word Flash Fiction Challenge prompt for September

#### **Goin' to a Shindig**

Here's a little inspiration(?) for you:

Goin to a shindig

I ain't no prig

I'll even eat a pig

I'll have a swig

Gonna roast it big

And smoke a cig

And dance a jig.

And wake up in the brig.

MMR

# “Just the Facts Ma’am”

M.H. Brandt

**The 2019 Public Safety Writers Association Annual Conference (PSWA)** was held in Las Vegas, NV at the Orleans Hotel from July 18<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a very lively and intimate group that exists to support people involved in writing about public safety.

The annual conference was for people with public safety careers who write stories, poetry, or non-fiction about their incredible experiences. Mystery, thriller, and other writers who write about public safety characters and situations are most welcome and become family in a short time. Publishers, editors, and other professionals attend and provide valuable information to the group. There’s nothing like it anywhere in the United States and that is the reason I have attended for the last five years.

Fifty writers attended this year. The conference offered twelve panels with four individual speakers on selected topics germane to law

enforcement activities. This conference is panel-centric, where attendees have an opportunity to participate on a couple of panels and meet some very interesting characters posing as writers and cops. The PSWA Conference was well represented by the Sacramento Suburban Writers’ Club by MaryLou Anderson, Catherine McGreevy and Mike Brandt. Authors can sell and sign their books during the conference enhancing their revenue streaming. Some of the panels were: Publisher’s Corner, The Battle Between Showing and Telling, Author and Editor Relationships, Writing Action Scenes. and Writing Historical novels.

The 2020 PSWA conference will be held in Las Vegas from July 16th and 19th at the Orleans Hotel. This is not only the most entertaining and enthralling group of writers you will ever meet, but the cheapest conference you will ever attend. By the way, we were not subjected to the migration of grasshoppers swarming Las Vegas in late July.

# REALLY BAD WRITING RULES

The Evil Twin of the Grammar Guardian

M. L. Edson (AKA Mary Lou Anderson)

If you end a sentence in an abbreviation, use two (2) periods — one for the abbreviation and one for the end of the sentence, etc..

Use the number instead of writing it out. That way you'll save \$1,000,000s in ink and paper.

Go ahead and end your sentence with a preposition, especially "at": "Where's it at?" instead of "Where is it?" Need an excuse? It's called an "adverb of placement."

Double negatives are fine; they emphasize that you really mean it. That phrase, "Two negatives make a positive," relates to algebra, not English grammar. So, don't never forget it.

British and American spelling, grammar, and punctuation rules are always the same.

Don't make a separate paragraph for each person talking; save paper by putting them all together.

Don't trust the computer to know the end of the line. Hit the Enter key at the end of each line.

Hit the Tab key to indent every paragraph. Better yet, use the space bar to indent or center something on the page.

Don't bother to learn the shortcuts on your computer program. No need to save time. We're all going to live forever, right?

Eliminate commas semicolons hyphens periods they just confuse people.

Use a lot of exclamation points to make sure the reader knows how excited your character is. The same goes for the question mark. Use a string of them to show it's REALLY questionable.

"There" is always singular, so always use a singular verb. Example: Even if there's two or three things, use "there is" or "there's." Besides, "there's are" just sounds wrong. Just try using "there're."

Underline and italicize and maybe even bold a word or phrase to really emphasize it.

If you find a great word to use in the perfect place, use it again and again. And again. And again.

Capitalize every Noun, like File Cabinet, Table, Chair. They're all important, right?

Put a coma in, whenever you pause, because using more comas, just, you know, makes it sound better.

Disclaimer

Remember — these suggestions are from the EVIL twin of the Grammar Guardian —DO NOT really follow these "rules."

# In the Future

Jeannie Turner

There's a *where* I've yet to meet  
 Could be far or 'cross the street  
 It's waiting there for me to greet  
 I'll just have to wait

There's a *who* so far ahead  
 Could be fun or one to dread  
 Many words then would be said  
 I'll just have to wait

There's a *when* that's bound to come  
 The time this earth I'm going from  
 Some say that thought makes them feel numb  
 I'll just have to wait

The *what* to come will be surprise  
 It might be new or in disguise  
 'twill surely open up my eyes  
 I'll just have to wait

But it's the *why* of life I seek  
 if I could have just one small peek  
 that's the one I greatly seek  
 but still  
 I'll have  
 to wait

## Standard vs. Fixed

### Layout for eBooks

Mort Rumberg

You may have heard the terms before—here's what they mean, in general.

**Standard Layout** means the eBook can be read on most eReaders (Kindle, Sony, Nook, etc.) and the font size or font type can be adjusted (made larger, for example). Most eBooks are in ePUB format (mostly all text).

**Fixed Layout** means the eBook's visual elements are, well, fixed. This format preserves the qualities of the printed page, e.g. illustrated books, Manga. The reader generally cannot change the content settings (margins, font size) other than in general (i.e., zoom in or out).

When should you use them?

Use the **Standard ePUB Format** if:

- your eBook is almost all text (not including the cover art).
- your eBook contains no more than a few small images.
- you want maximum usability across different tablet or eReader platforms.

Use **Fixed Layout** if:

- image placement is critical.
- you want a certain background color.
- you want text to wrap around images.
- you want multiple-column pages.
- you don't want the page aspect ratios to change.

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Global Warming or Global Cooling?

L. Paul Turner

Through my connection with JPAerospace.com, I've observed notable changes in the temperature of the atmosphere above 60,000 ft MSL (Mean Sea Level). The first change was noted by Bob Berman and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in about 2007. I was reading Bob's amazing and enjoyable book about the sun, titled "The Sun's Heartbeat," from which I learned that the atmosphere above 60,000 ft MSL had significantly changed its temperature profile. Instead of the usual system, where at 60,000 ft it's about -90°F, and at 100,000 ft it's about -20°F, a warming of 70°F, the atmosphere, starting in 2007 or so, had stayed at the same temperature all the way up. That is, it was about -90°F from 60,000 ft all the way up to 100,000 ft. Why? Berman gave us the NOAA derived reasoning that the atmosphere below 60,000 ft was so thick with carbon dioxide that infrared rays from the sun could get through to the ground as usual, but the weaker rays reflected from the earth's surface could not penetrate the thickened CO₂ layers, so they could not reheat the atmosphere above 60,000 ft. This resulted in the same low -90°F all the way up to 100,000 ft, and perhaps beyond.

Caveat: This colder scenario held true for certain parts of earth, but temperature data for all of the atmosphere in different places around the earth was not closely examined by me. So, there is some doubt in my mind about how widespread this cold phenomenon was. Nonetheless, the reasoning seemed sound to me. We'll see.

Then, something happened in 2015 and 2016. We started to note temperatures at 100,000 ft that were unusually warm, up to 20°F above zero. I used the same reasoning used to explain the earlier 2007 change. That is, the atmosphere was now so thick with CO₂ below 60,000 ft that infrared rays coming from the sun could not easily penetrate the atmosphere below 60,000 ft. The infrared was heating the atmosphere above that level, and that gave us the 20°F readings at 100,000 ft.

Of course, this reasoning is an attempt at explaining cause, and we know that causation arguments always have an indeterminate amount of uncertainty. Even so, we must ask the question about our human-caused effect on climate. Does the new normal of high CO₂ in the air portend global cooling, simply because infrared rays are now reaching the ground in less concentration? Maybe. Then we have the other possible cooling trend in the sun's heat output as measured by the number of sun spots. We are just coming out of a low period of sunspot activity, a low period that was a bit lower than average. Will we have low sunspot numbers as we enter the higher phase of the sunspot cycle? What about the magnetic anomaly in the South Atlantic Ocean? Or, the fact that the north magnetic pole excursion precedes an ice age by something less than a thousand years? Conclusion is that we just don't know how much, or which way, our activity on earth is moving the climate. Hotter? Or, colder? Our best answer is to stay tuned.

– L Paul Turner is the author of "The Space Trade Update." Follow him on Twitter @BloonWhisperer. More information about JP Aerospace can be found at JPAerospace.com and in "Floating to Space," signed by the author, available at the JP Aerospace store page. Follow JP Aerospace on Twitter @JohnMPowell1.

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Ron Smith
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	?
Treasurer	Julia Beyers

Chairs:

Achievements	Y O U ????
Coffee/Treats	Al Gilding
Conferences	John Powell
Critique Groups	Brittany Lord
Historian	Pat Biasotti
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Mary Lou Anderson
Nominations	Y O U ????
Program/Speakers	Cathy McGreevy
Publicity	Paul Turner
Raffle	Y O U ????
Sunshine	Nan Roark
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	Paul Turner

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Suburban Scribe!

\$3 a month (3-month minimum) for members
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Send your request to newsletter@sactowriters.org

COPY AND DEADLINES

Submit original written material such as: poems, letters, book excerpts, articles, book reviews, humor, web sites to visit, general information, fun stuff to share — almost anything. Also, share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc.

Please keep the submission relatively short, maybe up to a couple hundred words, otherwise it will have to be serialized. Something short makes great filler. Please submit electronically. There is no pay but byline credit is given — and that looks good to agents and publishers. This is a benefit of being a member of SSWC.

Send to: mledsonanderson@yahoo.com
Use the subject line **“SSWC Newsletter Submission”** in your email — **PLEASE!**

Deadline
about two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

MEMBERSHIP is paid on a yearly basis. If joining after March, dues are prorated by quarter.

Individual \$40.00/year	Couple \$55.00/year
Full-Time Student \$30.00/year	Platinum Senior (70+) \$30.00/year

Membership is not required for attending meetings but it does provide benefits including

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Publication in newsletter | 3) Participation in critique groups |
| 2) Participation in club author events | 4) Grants for conferences ... & more |

More information is on our website: sactowriters.org.

Name: _____ Genres: _____ Published? Y/N

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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Your name and email are needed to receive the digital newsletter.