

## **HANDOUT 1 WORKSHOP OUTLINE**

- I. **Introduction**—Never too soon or too late to consider this recurring question for authors: “What is your process of Writing?”
  
- II. **The Ten Steps of a Sample Process: [Handout 2]**
  - A. To bring order to chaos or more effectiveness to your order:
    1. **Conduct a self-interview answering the following questions:**
      - (a) Why do I want to be a fiction writer?
      - (b) Who do I want to be known as?
      - (c) What do I really want to write?
      - (d) When is the best time for me to write?
      - (e) Where is the best place for me to write?
      - (f) How will I best get my words onto paper?
  
    2. **Enter your work area on a regular basis.**
      - (a) Create your mood for maximum concentration.
      - (b) For the first draft, use free-flow method concentrating on the story with the creative side of your brain.
      - (c) For the second draft, analyze plot structure.  
—Is the basic structure sound and are character arcs interesting?
      - (d) Edit for scene inconsistencies and text errors to create your third draft.  
—Read or re-read such sources as Stunk and White’s Elements of Style and/or Browne’s Self-Editing for Fiction Writers.

(e) Polish for ultimate smoothness and clarity to produce a final draft.

3. **Let the final draft sit for at least two weeks.**
4. **Read the final draft through objectivity.**
5. **Repeat appropriate steps 2 (c-d) through 4.**
6. **Solicit feedback from non-industry people.**
7. **Incorporate reasonable changes.**
8. **Send this tested manuscript to writing contests, editors and agents.**
9. **Begin process for new project, reassessing your circumstance with self-interview, taking into consideration feedback from step eight as it arrives.**
10. **Consider alternate modes of publishing if necessary.**

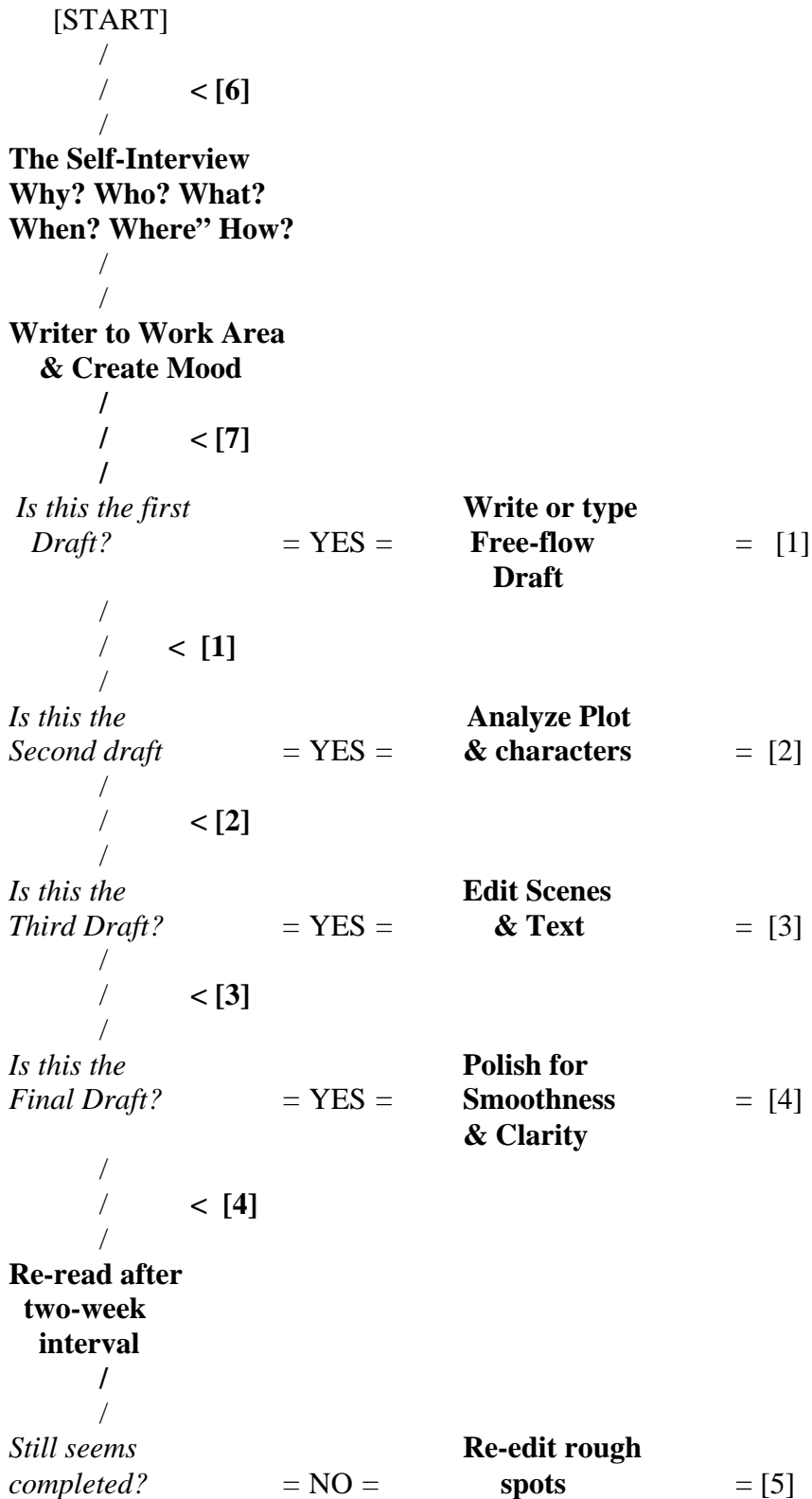
B. Complete answers to the Self-Interview questions. [**Handout 3**]

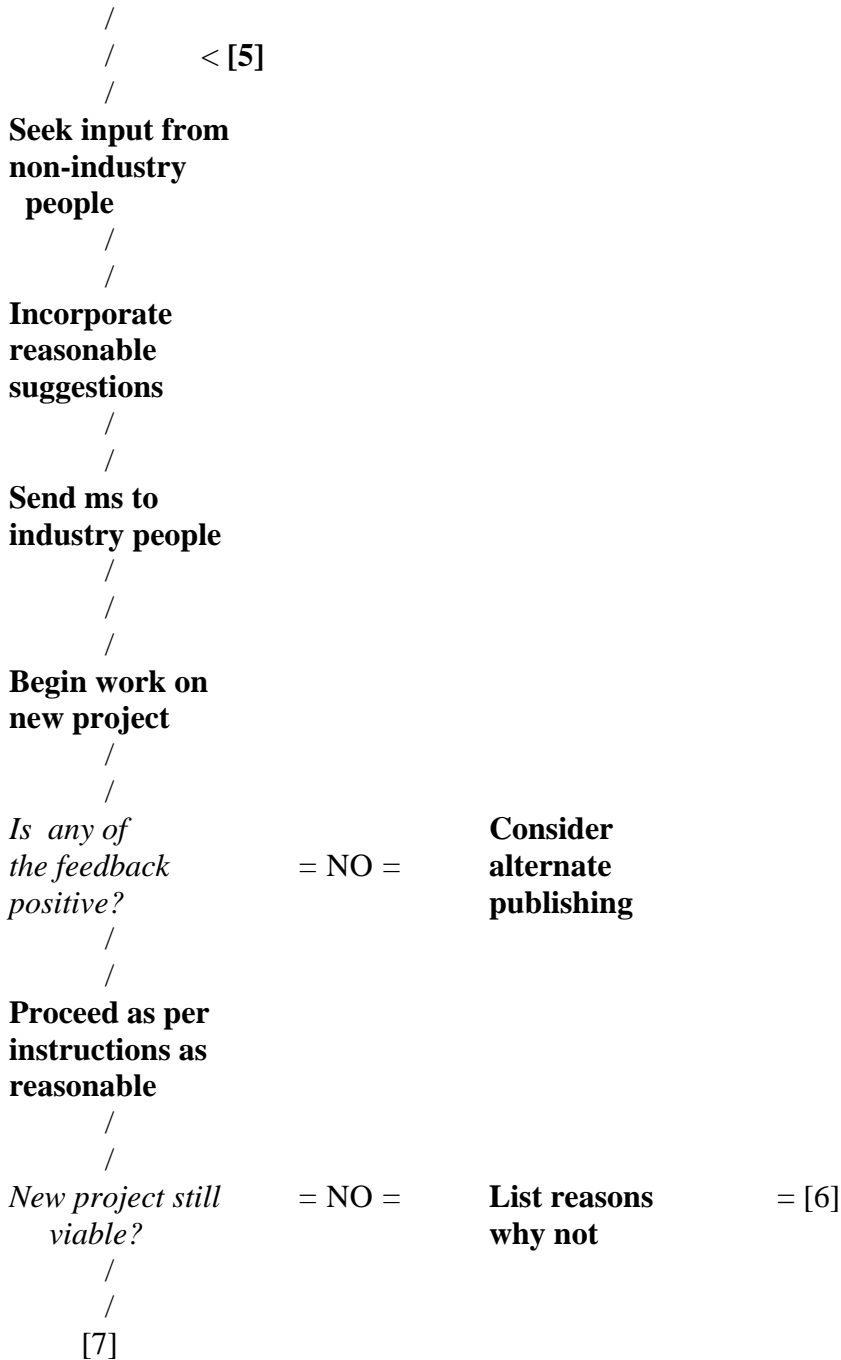
C. Discussion about Self-Interview answers.

**III. Consideration of various (usually unmentionable) inevitable distractions— such as hellions, housework, marketing, the IRS (as time allows).**

**IV. Conclusion & Questions.**

## HANDOUT 2 THE PROCESS OF WRITING FLOWCHART\*





\* Flowchart symbols conversion: Slashes are for vertical lines, equal signs for horizontal lines, brackets for circles, carets for arrows, italics to indicate decision diamonds, and bold to indicate procedure rectangles.

## **HANDOUT 2**

### **Self-Interview Questions**

**1. Why do I want to be a fiction writer?**

(This will help you determine if you need a process at all and if so, how much time you want to devote to it.)

**2. Who do I want to be known as?**

(Establishing your writer identity as soon as possible allows you to hang up your shingle above your shop to greater effect.)

**3. What do I really want to write?**

(Establish your genre so that when you reach your desk, your focus is clear.)

**4. When is the best time for me to write?**

(If the crack of noon works for you, so be it. If you have to work around others' schedules, use those to reinforce your writing schedule.)

**5. Where is the best place for me to write?**

(Most writers prefer a private area with no noise, but some write in coffee houses or libraries.)

**6. How can I best get my words onto paper?**

(Increasingly, writers are abandoning computers at least for their first draft, using some combination of keyboard and pencil or even recording their words first.)

## **HANDOUT 3**

### **Self-Interview Questions**

**1. Why do I want to be a fiction writer?**

(This will help you determine if you need a process at all and if so, how much time you want to devote to it.)

**2. Who do I want to be known as?**

(Establishing your writer identity as soon as possible allows you to hang up your shingle above your shop—surrounding your books—to greater effect.)

**3. What do I really want to write?**

(Establish your genre so that when you reach your desk, your focus is clear.)

**4. When is the best time for me to write?**

(If the crack of noon works for you, so be it. If you have to work around others' schedules, use those to reinforce your writing schedule.)

**5. Where is the best place for me to write?**

(Most writers prefer a private area with no noise, but some write in coffee houses or libraries.)

**6. How can I best get my words onto paper?**

(Increasingly, writers are abandoning computers at least for their first draft, using some combination of keyboard and pencil or even recording their words first.)