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# PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



## SUPPORT READING FREEDOM!

This month, we celebrate Banned Books Week. But, let's not stop there; let's support freedom for authors and readers alike all year long. As writers, it's hard to imagine our intended audiences not being allowed to choose to read our work, but it often happens.

In this issue, you will find out how to gain early feedback as part of our writing community, how to deal with parts of your work some may find offensive, and how you can support reading freedom.

Write on!

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# News @ *Provisional Pen* WRITING SERVICES

## LET'S CHAT ABOUT WRITING!

Getting feedback early and often is so important for writers. You need to know how readers react to your work in order to strengthen it. But, where can you find a helpful community of other writers to provide feedback? Provisional Pen offers these flexible options:

- Join our free [Writers Group](#) on Facebook to take part in the conversation about writing.
- Enjoy the many benefits of a [paid membership](#), including our Members Only Writing Group and video conferences.
- Purchase our [consultation services](#), which include an online membership as well as individual feedback sessions.



We can help you get the input you need to make your projects succeed!





## WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

### TRY NOT TO OFFEND

Though any piece of writing could possibly offend someone, there are some actions you can take to avoid being gratuitously offensive (unless that is your purpose for some reason). We recommend starting by researching stereotypes and revising so your writing doesn't rely on them. For helpful resources, check out our blog post "[The Words We Choose: Overcoming Stereotypes in Writing](#)."

The next step is getting quality feedback on your work from classmates, fellow writers, or a writing coach. This matters so much when it comes to discovering the emotional reactions your writing evokes. We all have our blind spots when it comes to our own writing, so early readers can help us catch issues we weren't even aware of.

Does this always mean eliminating something from a project? Not necessarily. You can instead show awareness and give readers a head's up by addressing possibly offensive aspects in the introduction. For example, Mia P. Manansala warns readers of a few sensitive topics in her diverse cozy mystery *Arsenic and Adobo* (vii).

While doing the work of anticipating reader reactions doesn't guarantee your writing won't be challenged, it does prepare you to defend your piece. Furthermore, these steps improve your work by adding depth (when you move beyond stereotypes) and a polished finish (from using your early reader feedback to revise). So, you win no matter what happens.



#### Work Cited

Manansala, Mia P. *Arsenic and Adobo: A Tita Rosie's Kitchen Mystery*. Kindle ed., Berkley Prime Crime, 2021.

# MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

## SUPPORT READERS' RIGHTS

Creative freedom isn't just for creators; it's also for those who enjoy others' creations. It's about choices, about the opportunity to have a say in what creative works you consume. Unfortunately, some people fight to limit this freedom. What can you, as a reader, do to support readers' rights?

### Read banned books.

Chances are, you've probably already read some. You can always reread your favorites or check out something new. Take a look at your local library's special display of banned books this month, or check out the American Library Association's *Banned & Challenged Books* website anytime for lots of interesting info along with book lists.



### Encourage people in your life to read them.

Already recommend books to your mom, your nephew, your best friend? Great! Just share your favorite banned books with them. If there are young children in your life, read some of the banned children's literature to/with them.

### Share on social media.

Take to the Internet to reach more people, especially during the pandemic. Talk about Banned Books Week and your favorite controversial reads on Facebook, Goodreads, Bookstagram, or wherever you like to connect online.



### Work Cited

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. *Banned & Challenged Books*. American Library Association, 2021, [www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks). Accessed 6 Sept. 2021.



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