



# **FIND ACCESS POINTS**

# TO THE OCEAN!

## HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This is a reformatting and reimagining of the discovery series I work clients through, usually when they're at a turning point in their writing process. Maybe it's going from ideation to actually writing, or sorting out a collection of posts and transcripts, or revising a manuscript. Sometimes, we know what we need and get right to that tool—a refreshed table of *content* (no, that's not a typo), a refined analysis arc...But not often.

In most cases, we start with what I've called a "discovery" call regardless of how much has already been discovered. It never hurts to go back and refine who you are to your work, who your reader is, and how the work brings you together. That one step can solve so much more than we realize.

With that said, you may decide one step looks more advantageous than another, based on where you are with your idea or project, and you're welcome to skip right to it. I will always

recommend going top to bottom, though, just in case you find an answer to a question you didn't know you had.

Because this is a book and not a 1:1 call, I've tried to lay it out with as much context as I could manage, while keeping the bulk of the page time free for you to explore. After all, our goal here is for you to do the discovering. So I've grouped each step into three parts that form a tool all on their own:

- Find Access Points
- Make Connections
- See What Comes Up

When you're starting a new project or feeling stuck in something old: look for ways you can easily tap into what you want to write (find access points) and set the blocked up stuff aside for now; set some guidelines using reference points—authors you love, a specific target reader, and your relationship to your topic (make connections); then start drafting, even if that looks like making lists, without judging (see what comes up).

Inside of these sections, there are short explanations preceding a series of questions and writing prompts. There's not much space to write here, and that's also by design. I do want you to take the time to contemplate each question, but sometimes more words indicates less understanding. There's a balance to strike between free writing and writing around a topic. Have we found it with these pages? Who knows. I recommend writing in pencil and grabbing extra erasers.

You're also more than welcome to type, to make up your own questions, to get 2 pages in and realize the lightbulb is on and your whole book is coming to you like you've trapped a Muse in the attic (this is a *Sandman* reference; please don't be that guy). My point is, this is yours now. I hope something in it will inspire you and reignite your passion to write. If not, that's okay too. Put it on the shelf for a better "beach day," or hand it off to a friend who's been dying to catch a glimpse of their own shoreline. And as always, just like a buffet before COVID-times, please take what you like and leave the rest.

## ..... ASK YOURSELF .....

**Where are you in the book-writing process? Do you have a publishing vision (traditional, self-pub, hybrid, something else)?**

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**What obstacles have you faced so far, and what kind of support would you like for those things?**

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**What do you love most about writing, books or otherwise? What does “flow” look like for you?**

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**What frustrates you most about writing, books or otherwise? What does “blocked” look like for you?**

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What are you looking for in a writing partner, support group, book coach, or editor?

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Think of your best writing experiences and your worst writing experiences—what does past-you want current-you to know about those situations or project types?

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## ..... ASK YOURSELF .....

**Why are you writing a book?**

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**What would wild success with this project look or feel like? How do you see yourself leveraging the book?**

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**What's the best possible compliment you could receive on it, and who would it come from?**

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**Why are *you* writing *this* book? What are you hoping to say about your area of expertise, the world?**

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**It's 3 years *after* launching your book. What does life look like?**

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Looking back on those 3 years, how have you used the book to get to that place? Who are you working with and how did the book connect you with them?

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What happened in the first year after launch that set you on that path?

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