

Quick Tips on Writing an Effective Synopsis

(References: *DailyWritingTips.com* and *Anne Mini*)

A synopsis is a sales tool. Its purpose is to persuade an agent, editor or potential reader that your book is worth a further look.

Think book jacket blurb. The synopsis should make someone want to read the book. Imagine it on the inside flap of a hardcover book jacket. It needs to be about that long - 80 to 100 words – for now.

Take pains to create a well-written synopsis. Your synopsis - even a one-pager - reveals your writing ability.

Focus on important things. Introduce the major characters and premise, demonstrate the primary conflict(s), show what's at stake for the protagonist, and – ideally - give some indication of the tone and voice of the book. For a how-to book, give specific examples of what readers will learn. For inspirational/self-help, explain what readers will learn and/or take away from the book. How might their attitudes and behavior change? For poetry or creative non-fiction, clarify your themes, topics and subject matter.

Write the synopsis in present tense. Ex. *Charlie Jones is a personable young man with a third eye he keeps covered with a patch....*

Don't skip this exercise. You never know when you might need this. Now that you've officially begun the work of your book, it's time to be a professional and be prepared for the opportunities ahead of you.