Publishing Readiness Checklist

Check your manuscript, audience, and goals before choosing a path.

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Preparing Your Story For Its Next Destination

Completing a manuscript is a meaningful accomplishment. Before exploring publishing opportunities, it helps to understand where your project stands and what areas may need attention. This checklist is designed to help authors reflect, prepare, and discover their next step.

Manuscript

- [ ] **My manuscript is complete**
- [ ] **My story has a clear purpose**
- [ ] **My chapters are organized**
- [ ] **I have reviewed and revised my work**
- [ ] **I have considered professional feedback**

Reader & Message

- [ ] **I understand who my reader is**
- [ ] **I can explain why this story matters**
- [ ] **I understand what value my book provides**
- [ ] **I can describe the transformation or experience I hope to create**

Author Vision

- [ ] **I understand why I am sharing this story**
- [ ] **I know what success looks like for this project**
- [ ] **I have considered whether this is one book or part of a larger body of work**
- [ ] **I understand my long-term goals**

Publishing Preparation

Depending on your chosen path, you may need:

- [ ] **Query materials**
- [ ] **A book proposal**
- [ ] **Sample chapters**
- [ ] **Author information**
- [ ] **Audience and market understanding**

Before Choosing A Path

Consider:

- [ ] **What do I want this book to accomplish?**
- [ ] **Who needs this message?**
- [ ] **Do I want creative control or a publishing partnership?**
- [ ] **What destination best supports my vision?**

Publishing Readiness Checklist

A prepared author is an informed author. The Harbor helps you understand your options and discover your next step.

Return to The Harbor

Whatever you discover here, the Publishing Path ticket at Harbor Station can help you choose what comes next.

Open this Library guide >

Visit the Library >

Your notes (editable in a PDF reader that supports forms)

Every story has a different journey. When you are ready for personal guidance, The Harbor is here to help you discover your next step. Your PDF notes stay in this personal copy.