

# *Create Your Own Wave*

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## **Sitting on the sidelines**

Have you ever wished you could be a part of the group that brainstorms every Thursday with their critique partners? Or have you jealously read an author's blog as she talked about the weekend she spent writing at a beach house with friends? What about when someone mentioned they got a request for their manuscript during a get-together with a panel of published writers and their agent? Do you ever wonder how you can get invited to one of these opportunities?



I remember when I joined my local writing chapter, I would sit and listen as plans were made for these very same activities and I often wondered how I could get invited. Over the next few years, I experienced rejection after rejection with my writing and

still I didn't make more of an attempt to become a part of any of these groups.

## **Creating My Wave**

I eventually realized that I wasn't doing myself any good with my sit-and-wait method, so I threw myself into volunteering for various activities. Some were small jobs for my local chapter and others were a bit more time consuming. I introduced myself to new people and struck up conversations with others sitting alone. No matter how big or how small, I was putting myself out there and hoping that Karma would eventually be kind.

It wasn't until [GRW's Vice-President, Nicki Salcedo](#), made a comment about "our group being set for the next wave of publication" that a light bulb went off in my head. During the time I'd been mourning my failures at infiltrating one of these already established groups, I had been "creating my own wave." Little by little, I'd been building my network of friends; creating my own small band of "Merry Women" and doing those very things I was coveting.

## **What Did I Do to Get to This Point?**

When I decided I wanted to meet more people, I volunteered to be the greeter at the front desk for my local writing chapter. This volunteer gig led to a board position as GRW's PRO-Liaison and then a committee position for GRW's writing conference. Here I took another step out of my comfort zone and co-presented a workshop,

conquering a fear of talking in front of people.

At this same time I came up with the idea of starting a group blog. By now I had made tons of friends, so I sent out a mass e-mail to 80+ people asking if they'd be interested. I was shocked when 20 people actually responded. None of us had any idea if the world could handle another group blog, but we all had the desire to give it a try.

### **You Just Have to DO IT!**

After Nicki made that comment about being on the next wave to publication, I realized that with everything I had done I was riding a wave I had created. I was now living those great writing weekends and collaborating with fellow writers on a group novel. I was being invited to attend writing workshops that gave me insight into why I wasn't published, yet. I was riding a wave that I had once dreamed of being a part of.

I'm not saying I just lucked into this group. In fact, it took a lot of work to get where I am right now. Not only did I have to overcome a huge fear of talking in front of people, but I also sacrificed TV and reading time in order to do the things my volunteer activities required me to do. That doesn't even include the many hours of lost family and writing time.

I now understand why I didn't succeed in my earlier attempts to join those original groups. First, I didn't take the initiative. How were they supposed to know I wanted to participate when I didn't speak up? Second, sometimes it's better to have a limited number of people. It's hard to give everyone individual attention in a large group and I believe the reason the [Petit](#)

[Fours and Hot Tamales blog](#) is going so well is because we have only 19 personalities to deal with. Third, it does take a lot of hard work to make these groups succeed. You have to be willing to put in that time if you want them to put the time into you.

### **My Advice to You**

If you want to become a part of the "in" crowd, you have to take the initiative. YOU are the only one with your best interest at heart. Ask someone if they will critique with you. Ask to participate in a workshop you heard about. Find out when the next book signing is going to be.

Check out Tammy Schubert's article on creating a blog and invite some friends to blog with you. Get out there and create YOUR wave. If you don't, you'll just be another fish that washed up on the beach in this great big ocean as the waves continue to pass you by.

*[Tami Brothers](#) finds the time in between her busy work schedule and equally busy school schedule to write contemporary romance and young adult stories. When she isn't spending her remaining time with her family, she can be found blogging with her blog sisters at <http://petitfoursandhottamales.blogspot.com/> or at [www.tamibrothers.com](http://www.tamibrothers.com).*

