

Conference & Retreat Speaker Information

“Tez has insights that have broadened my own understanding.”

- Josh McDowell, author and apologist

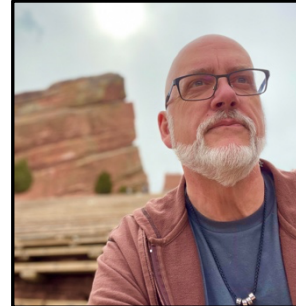
Tez Brooks

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Keynotes

The Write Company: a challenging, 30-min. keynote from the book of Acts on how being with Jesus transforms your writing.

Being in the Write Place: an encouraging, 30-min. keynote using the life of Elijah to encourage writers to keep writing, even through their fears, rejections, and dry periods in order to find hope in the wilderness.

Taking the Leap: a funny, 30-min. keynote using the elements of skydiving to remind writers of the importance of working in tandem with Christ in their writing endeavors.

Custom-Made Theme Keynote: Advise Tez your conference theme and he'll prepare a keynote to fit your needs.

One Hour and Continuing Classes

Beginners:

So, It's Your First Writer's Conference: Nothing can be more intimidating than your first conference. Learn the essentials of what to bring and what to expect to minimize fear and make the most of your conference experience.

Why You Need A Critique Group: Do we really need a group of peers reading and editing our pieces? Learn how these groups can excel your writing career. Discover how to critique like a pro and how writers from diverse genres create a more robust group.

25 Way to Make Your Manuscript Shine: Writers will learn to avoid some of the most common editing mistakes in the industry to present clean professional manuscripts/articles to make your editors and publishers happy.

The Anatomy of the Query: Learn the elements you need to include to ensure your query letter says everything you need it to say, and nothing more! This simple checklist will help writers get noticed with a query that stands out from the rest.

Making a Professional One Sheet: What is a One Sheet and why do you need it? Attendees will understand the basics needed and walk away with a completed One Sheet so they can successfully pitch to agents or editors.

Identifying Publishing Scams: Understand what to look for in a valid publisher and what to beware of from scammers.

How Creating Short Books Can Jump-Start Your Writing Career : Learn how a non-fiction manuscript of under 20K words can build your platform, establish your expertise on a subject, and make that longer book easier to tackle. Walk away from this class with solid ideas for ten short books.

Intermediate:

How to Obtain Eye-Catching Endorsements: Learn when, how, and who to ask for book endorsements that stand out and what to expect.

21 Vital Elements of a Great Non-Fiction Book: Discover all the secrets that make your manuscript stand out for agents, publishers, and readers.

Why Back Matter Matters: One of the most overlooked real estate of your manuscript, the blank pages at the back of your book need not remain empty. Learn the best ways to leverage your marketing ideas at little to no cost while adding length and value to your project.

How to Prepare Your Pitch to Agents and Editors: Writers will learn how to present their book idea with confidence and professionalism to make the most of a 10-minute pitch appointment during a conference.

Devotions That Sell: Learn what editors are looking for and how to make your devotional stand out from the others. Learn what editors want and don't want in order to get your work accepted. [This can be lengthened into a continuing class.](#)

The Standard Book Proposal: So you pitched your idea and an agent or publisher invited you to send them a proposal—now what? You still have to sell your idea. You'll learn what a proposal should include and the work you must do before creating your proposal. [This is a continuing practicum of three one-hour sessions.](#)

Interviewing Like a Pro: Focusing mainly on journalism for non-profit organizations, this class helps writers know how best to prepare for and conduct interviews, helping you dig for those changed-life stories that envision donors and other stakeholders for maximum impact.

Where's God in All This?: Reality check—the Christian writing industry is still about business and God's okay with that. All the talk of branding yourself, promoting your book and negotiating deals can leave you disillusioned or even snarky. Whether you're a Christian writer or a writer who just happens to be Christian, you'll learn how to recognize when you need refreshment and time with the Lord. Together we'll refocus on the importance of the Holy Spirit's role in your writing career and why God has you here in the first place. Please bring your Bible to this class.

Interactive Ideas for Your Books and Articles: Learn the elements that help you sell articles and books using sidebars, questions, to-do lists, quizzes, prayers and more.

Who Do You Think You Are?: How to Confidently Finish Your Non-Fiction Book: This class offers attendees help for shaking off the imposter syndrome that attacks so many authors. Writers will learn what it is, how it hinders your writing, and what to do to crush it so that you can finish that manuscript with authority and confidence.

Advanced:

Secrets of Writing To and About Men: Learn the unique challenges of writing for the male population and the features to implement so you can get your book read by men.

Creative Non-Fiction (What Is and Isn't Real Journalism): Learn how to make the boring truth come alive and still be accurate, with special attention to writing for non-profits.

Memoirs That Get Attention: The Dos and Don'ts of a good memoir that will stand out from others and stir interest while pitching to publishers and agents.

How To Be a Great Radio/Podcast Guest: This class covers interview questions you should be prepared to answer, speaking tips for LIVE audiences, keeping listeners engaged, creating a press kit, and making the host's job easy so he'll invite you back.

Ten Rules of Successful Freelancers: Learn what you must do to become an organized and sought-after freelancer.

Flash Fiction Workshop: Learn the dos and don'ts of a well-written flash fiction piece. This continuing class also allows participants to work on and complete the first draft for five micro stories.

Audio-Visual Needs

Computer, projector and screen. Projector or large screen TV with ability to connect HDMI cord from laptop. If more than 20 people or the audience is more than 15 feet away: microphone and speakers

What Conferees Are Saying

"Tez was the most interesting speaker we had, very entertaining."

"A wealth of practicality consumes Tez's interactive presentations."

"Encouraging, and a great Powerpoint. His transparency spoke to my insecurities as a writer and encouraged me."

"Compelling stories, educational content, Tez is both humorous and warm. He connects with the audience."

"Heartfelt presentation of essential truths to keep us focused on the right things."

Tez's Friday morning keynote was authentic, funny, inspirational, biblical."

"He has a teacher's heart... relatable, authentic, skillful. Tez was my favorite because his message, seemed directed to me. I appreciated having takeaways."

"Tez is funny, engaging, and helpful. I loved the "hands-on" approach that allowed us to work on our proposals in class."

Conference Director and Leader Reviews

"Author and freelance writer Tez Brooks offers an impressive list of workshops to equip and inspire writers at all levels. I look forward to having him serve on faculty again."

Marlene Bagnall, Director,
Colorado and Greater Philly Christian Writers Conferences

"Tez Brooks came highly recommended. He added so much value to our conference and was rated by our attendees as the best keynote. An authentic, relatable presenter who comes across as sincere and caring and does so with humorous, personal experiences. I really hope he can return to our conference in the future."

Marilyn Turk, Conference Director
Blue Lake Christian Writers Conference

“Tez Brooks knows his stuff. I attended his *Book Publishing 101* seminar. A day later, I attended a similar lecture hosted by a publisher. The editor repeated point-for-point, what Tez had said previously. Tez was fun to listen to and funny. You can count on him to come prepared and engage with his audience.”

*Anne Marie Winz,
Writing for Life Instructor and Editorial Director
Global Leadership, Cru*

“Tez Brooks teaches with authority and humor, making his presentations fun and insightful.”

*Award-winning author, Taryn Souders
Word Weavers International
www.TarynSouders.com*

"Gifted writer and speaker Tez Brooks combines wit, practical advice, and the wisdom borne of experience to give value-added takeaway to his presentations."

*Marti Pieper, Author, Collaborative Writer, Editor
CBA Best-Selling Ghostwriter*

“Tez Brooks is an engaging and personable speaker. His presentation included valuable information that helped our members prepare for a major national event.”

*Kristen Stieffel
President, ACFW Central Florida Chapter
kristenstieffel.com*

“I appreciated the workshop...love the way Tez presented honestly. He balances humor and content very effectively. It engaged and drew the audience in, providing a load of quality content.”

*Rick Whitted, Whitt's End Corp
rickwhittedauthor@gmail.com*

“Tez Brooks is a friend and a writing colleague. He rose to the occasion as a speaker. A man of honor and godliness.”

*Eva Marie Everson, President Word Weavers Intl.
CBA bestselling and award-winning author*

Credentials

- Serving as faculty at Evangelical Press Assoc. Convention, SoCal Christian Writers Conference, Writer's on the Rock Conference (Denver), Colorado Christian Writers Conference, Blue Lake Christian Writers Conference (Alabama), Florida Christian Writers Conference, and more.
- Articles in The Upper Room, CBN.com, Cru.org, Clubhouse, Eternity magazine, Worldwide Challenge, Focus on the Family, Guideposts, Cru.org and more.
- Was featured in "50 Authors You Should Know" by *Christianity.com*
- His book, *The Single Dad Detour* (Kregel) was winner for the 2016 Royal Palm Literary Awards and Serious Writer Academy's 2020 Book of the Decade. And his devotional book for first responders, *Debriefing* was a finalist in two contests.
- Other awards with Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference, Jerry Jenkins' Christian Writers Guild, the Florida Christian Writers Conference, Serious Writer Academy, and the Florida Writer's Assoc.
- Served on judging panel for the Royal Palm Literary Awards (2017, 2019) and the Selah Awards (2022).
- Screenplay *Jangled*, won 2016 Best Short Film in Florida at CENFLO.
- Screenplay *Late*, selected 2017 Prince of Prestige Academy Award and Central Florida Film Festival
- He is a president for two chapters of Word Weavers International and a member of American Christian Writers Assoc., and Colorado Author's League.
- Editor-in-Chief of *TODAY Magazine* and a periodical *Every Tribe and Touchscreen*.
- As the Director of Reporting for the Jesus Film Project, Tez led a team of 16 journalists, editors and filmmakers who traveled the world collecting stories of changed-lives.