

Episode 3: Write What You Know ... and Research the Rest

How to Choose Your Story Type:

- Read broadly in the genres that interest you.
- Read deeply in your topic.
- Make a pro-con list of genres under consideration.
- Determine what you feel most comfortable writing.

Research Your Topic

- Pictures: Google Images for descriptions, memory aids.
 - Tip: Print out pictures and place around workspace as immersion and motivation technique.
- Places: Google Earth and Google Maps for memory aids, accuracy of landmarks etc.
- Accents/dialogue, how-tos: YouTube
- Wikipedia footnotes
- Amazon: similar books and Look Inside feature
- Newspaper archives
- Local library catalogues
- Movies, TV, documentaries: Ideal for dress, vocabulary, historical detail.
- Personal contacts through network
- Reach out to experts, professors for answers to specific questions, academic papers, interviews on topic.

Legalities:

- Obtain permissions, ideally written releases
- Alert people beforehand
- Show people what you wrote and be prepared to negotiate

- Internet research
- Consult publishing attorney

Song lyrics: Rule of thumb—avoid using.