

Introduction

- Discussion not lecture
- List points, provide examples
- Many WLOV members could lead

Why do research?

- Adds realism
- Avoids controversy
- Never assume—look it up
- Inaccurate information
 - Puts off agents, editors, & publishers.
 - Disappoints readers

Who should do research?

- Every writer
 - Novice
 - Experienced
- Every genre
 - Non-fiction
 - Memoir
 - Put personal info into context of local, national, & int'l events
 - How-To-Do
 - Cooking, crafts
 - Picture

Who should do research? (cont.)

- Fiction
 - Historical
 - Mystery
 - Crime
 - Romance
 - Western

When Should Research Begin?

- Immediately
 - Background
 - Big picture
- While writing
 - Details
 - New Requirements
- Editing (revisions)
 - Questions
 - Inconsistencies
 - Double checks

How Much Research?

- Must be relevant
- Will use 'tip of iceberg'
 - Unused will influence writing
- Balance research & imagination
- Outline plot while researching
- Research must end—write the book

Are there rules?

- Grammar
 - Narrative
 - Dialog
- Word usage
 - When did the word first exist?
- Truth vs. Opinion (fact vs. emotion)
 - What is truth?
 - Whose opinion?

Sources

- Do not use
 - Movies
 - TV
 - Other novels
- Primary
- Location, Location, Location
 - Take photographs
 - First-hand accounts
 - Interviews
 - Public records

Sources (cont.)

- Secondary
 - Books
 - Photographs
 - Maps
 - Internet

Organization

- Outline
- Timeline
- Lists
 - Sources
 - Words
 - Bios of characters

Should you lie?

- No
 - Ruins trust
- Yes
- Language
- No reasonable alternative
- Clarity, avoid confusion