

**Romance Writers of Australia
PUBLISHING BASICS
SCORE SHEET**



Entry No.		Title:	
Judge No.		Sub-genre/ Line	

TOTAL SCORE (Maximum: 175 marks)

JUDGES: You are asked to assess **READINESS FOR PUBLICATION**.
Refer to **Guidelines for Judges** before you begin. **PLEASE give comments wherever possible.**

The scoring scheme is (mostly) from 1 to 10:
10 is ready for publication to 5 is needs moderate revision and 1 is major problems.
Grammar/spelling/punctuation is assessed from 1 to 5:
5 is ready for publication to 3 is needs moderate revision and 1 is major problems.
Zero is not a valid mark. Half-marks are acceptable.

PART A – SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

Remember you are marking readiness for submission, not perfection – a few errors can still be ready for submission. Do not mark based on personal preferences. Allow for tone and voice if applicable, especially in dialogue. Either US or Australian spelling is acceptable so long as it is consistent.

	Score
Is the entry free of spelling errors? (Max 5 marks)	
Are the basics of grammar followed? (Max 5 marks)	
Are the basics of punctuation followed? (Max 5 marks)	

If you gave less than full marks for any of these, either mark the errors on the entry, or explain here:

Subtotal for SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION (Maximum: 15 marks)

PART B: THE TAGLINE

		Score
Does it tell you the genre of the book?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Does it express what is at stake?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Is it clear and meaningful?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>

Please comment to explain your marks here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for Part B: THE TAGLINE (Maximum 30 marks)

PART C: THE BLURB

		Score
Is the writing well-paced? Is the blurb free of unessential details? Is it easy to read and understand?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Does the blurb intrigue you and make you want to buy the book?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Does the blurb give you a good sense of genre and hint at character conflict?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for THE BLURB Maximum: 30 marks)

PART D: THE FIRST TWO CHAPTERS

		Score
Did you get a good sense of the main characters' conflicts (internal and external)? Is the conflict strong and sustained throughout the entry?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Is the writing well paced? Did it make you want to read the full manuscript?	(Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for THE FIRST TWO CHAPTERS (Maximum: 20 marks)

PART E: THE WRITING

	Score
Did the opening lines/paragraph hook your interest? (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Were the main characters and their situation introduced, giving a sense of what the story is about? (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Is there a clear sense of time and place? (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Does the writing have a distinct style/voice that impacted positively on you? (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for THE WRITING (Maximum: 40 marks)

PART F: THE AUTHOR BIO

	Score
Does the bio make the author relatable? (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Do you get a sense of the author's personality? (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Is the bio relevant to the book's genre or subject matter? (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for THE AUTHOR BIO (Maximum: 30 marks)

PART E – THE X-FACTOR

PLEASE MARK THIS SECTION FOR ALL ENTRIES

In this section we are looking for the potential, the special quality that would entice the reader to buy the book. To mark this item, ignore the errors, and look for the potential.

	Score
How do you rate the potential of this entry? Give a score from 1 to 10, where 1 = 'very poor' and 10 = GIMME! I want to read this novel right now! (Max 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>

Please comment to explain your mark here.

Subtotal for X-FACTOR (Maximum: 10 marks)

SCORING

Please enter your subtotals from above:

	Score
Subtotal for SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION (Maximum: 15 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Subtotal for THE TAGLINE (Maximum: 30 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Subtotal for THE BLURB (Maximum: 30 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Subtotal for THE FIRST TWO CHAPTERS (Maximum: 20 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Subtotal for THE WRITING (Maximum: 40 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Subtotal for THE AUTHOR BIO (Maximum: 30 marks)	<input type="text"/>
Subtotal for X-FACTOR (Maximum: 10 marks)	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL FOR THIS ENTRY (Maximum: 175 marks)	<input type="text"/>

PROCEED TO NEXT PAGE – JUDGE'S SUMMARY COMMENTS

JUDGE'S SUMMARY COMMENTS

What were the particular strengths of this entry? Explain what you particularly like about this story and what worked well.

What didn't work so well and how could it be improved?

ABOUT THIS JUDGE:

	Published, Romance
	Published, Other
	Editor
	Unpublished writer
	Contest finalist/winner
	Avid reader of the genre