



Frequently asked questions about the Kauai Writers Conference

- I am just working on my first book. Will I feel out of place at the conference?

Not at all. Attendees range from people just beginning a first book to those who have published several books, and everyone in between.

- What is the conference environment and setting like?

The conference is held at the Royal Sonesta Kauai Resort, one of the nicest resorts on one of the most beautiful islands in the world. The beachfront resort sits on its own lovely cove, ideal for ocean recreation of all kinds. Sessions are held in both indoor and outdoor settings.

- What is the schedule like?

There are three components: a series of four-day master classes (November 6 to 9), a three-day conference (November 10 to 12) with multiple talks, panel discussions and workshops, and one-on-one sessions with literary agents and publishers. You can learn all about the program [here](#).

- How expensive are the rooms at the Royal Sonesta?

The conference blocked these rooms several years ago, at *well below half of the current prices*. The resort has kindly honored those rates, now a great bargain. You can book your room [here](#). We ask that you only reserve your rooms once you have registered for the conference, to make sure they remain available for our attendees.

- Who are the faculty?

The faculty comprise many of the top authors in the US. They were selected based on two criteria: extremely gifted writers who are also brilliant and caring teachers. These qualities do not often go together, but in each of our faculty they most definitely do. You can learn about each of the faculty members by clicking on their names below their photos [here](#).

- What are the one-on-one sessions?

These are a rare opportunity to meet privately with some of the most important literary agents and publishers and tell them about your work. Outside of this event, it would be nearly impossible to gain appointments with them, as they all receive dozens of inquiries a day. At the conference you can simply sit down with them in person. To do this, you can book your sessions [here](#).

- How do I register?

You can do it online [here](#), or you can schedule a time to register by phone [here](#).

- Do you offer online programs?

Yes. We offer live zoom sessions every Sunday at 7pm ET / 4pm PT on all aspects of the craft and business of writing. These are available by subscription [here](#).

- Should I sign up for the meal plans? Are there restaurants nearby I could go to instead?

We recommend the meal plans as the best opportunity for attendees and faculty to get to know one another. All the faculty have their breakfast and lunch here. The round tables seat ten to twelve and are perfect for conversations among attendees and faculty. The location is right beside the classrooms in a covered outdoor setting. Meals are served buffet style. While there are restaurants nearby, the time it takes to get to them, wait for a table, and order and wait for food makes it inconvenient and rushed to have breakfast or lunch there during the full schedule of the conference and master classes.

- How many agent sessions can I sign up for?

We request that people sign up for not more than three of these one-on-one sessions, to make sure that everyone who wants one can find a time slot.

- What is the difference between the pitch sessions and the manuscript critiques?

For the critique sessions, you'll be invited to send an excerpt from your work in advance. The agent will read it and will be prepared to discuss it with you in person. The pitch sessions allow you to present your work verbally but do not include the option to submit excerpts in advance.

- When are the agent sessions held?

The one-on-one sessions with agents and publishers are all be held during the three days of the conference. Each is fifteen minutes long. If you register for them, you'll be sent an invitation to pick the times for each of your sessions. Each agent has their own calendar that you'll have access to, so you can schedule your appointments so as not to conflict with conference sessions that you don't want to miss.

- What are the odds that an agent I meet during these sessions will actually take me on as a client and sell my book to a publisher?

Typically each agent meets with about thirty participants--about ten per day over the three days of the conference. On average, each winds up representing less than ten percent of them. However, these odds are vastly better than the usual route of sending an unsolicited query letter to an agent you don't get to meet in person. All of the agents who come to KWC do so because they want to find new clients to represent. A good number of books have been successfully published as a result of meetings during past Kauai Writers Conferences.

- How does the experience of the master classes differ from that of the conference?

Each master class runs three hours a day for four consecutive days. The conference offers forty-some sessions mostly lasting an hour each. The conference is more varied, while the master classes are a much more focused and in-depth experience.

- How should I decide which master classes to take?

We recommend that you base this decision on the teacher as much as the topic. In the [description of these classes](#), we include a lot of information about the teachers, often including a video clip of them teaching. Each teacher has given a written description of what they intend to teach about, but this inevitably varies depending on the needs and questions of the participants. Spend some time reading about them, watching their videos and asking yourself which of them you would most like to spend twelve hours with.

- Can I take more than one master class?

You can take up to two. Morning classes run from 9 to noon, and afternoon classes go from 1:30 to 4:30. There's an hour and a half for lunch in between. Some people take one class and some take two. It's a matter of personal preference.

- Should I rent a car?

There's no need to rent a car at the airport if you are staying at the Royal Sonesta Resort. It is just ten minutes from the airport and operates a shuttle that goes on a scenic private road from airport to resort. Shortly before the event, you'll be sent the phone number to call for the shuttle when you arrive.

- I have other questions. Where can I learn more?

Our [website](#) offers comprehensive information.

If you have additional questions, you are welcome to set up a time to talk with one of our team members [here](#). We'll be glad to help you.



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