

Writing Mentor Contract: Meg-John Barker

This contract sets out the aims, purpose, and boundaries for the writing mentorship sessions that I offer.

Confidentiality

The content of our exchanges will be kept confidential. That means that I won't discuss what we've talked about with anybody else unless you want me to. It's fine for you to let people know that you are working with me, and you can tell me whether you are happy with me doing the same, or whether you would prefer that I kept that confidential too. Either is fine.

Supervision

Generally writing mentorship doesn't require supervision, but occasionally it can be the case that such a relationship stops working well for one or both people. If this happens I will talk to a colleague who is both a writer and a therapist to get support, keeping the details of who you are anonymous.

Payment

I usually charge £15 per session per £10,000 you earn annually (e.g. £30 if your annual income is £20,000), or I can negotiate a quid pro quo arrangement with you instead of payment. If I am reading your work between sessions that will also be charged on an hourly basis.

Length, duration and place of sessions

Sessions will generally be 50 minutes long and take place at a location which we agree between us: Usually a flat I can use in Bank, or via Skype, a quiet cafe, or I can come to you if that is convenient for us both. Longer sessions are also a possibility to work on something specific.

Duration of sessions can be negotiated between us but common models would be a weekly or fortnightly session for a few months to address a specific issue or for the duration of a project. Alternatively, we could have an ongoing session once every month or so.

Contact outside sessions and boundaries

As this is a mentoring role rather than a therapy role it is fine for us to be in touch professionally or personally outside of sessions, but it will be useful to talk about how this will work best for us.

Content and structure

In the first session we will mutually decide on what the sessions will cover and how we will structure them. The kinds of things you might want the sessions for include:

- Support with the content of your writing, e.g. drawing on my expertise around gender, sexual, and relationship diversity, or other matters
- Assistance planning your writing or reflecting on your ideas
- Help editing your writing, e.g. having a session for each chapter to discuss it and any feedback/changes
- Thinking about your writing practice and how you fit it into your life and build in self-care around it
- Help with the blocks and challenges you face with your writing
- Someone to talk with about the emotional impact of your writing, e.g. what it reveals to you about yourself, or the challenges it throws up for the rest of your life
- Help thinking through what you want to do with your writing, e.g. publication in various forms

Problems

The main thing that is essential for this kind of support is that you feel comfortable and that we have a good rapport. If, after a session or two, it doesn't feel like that for you please do say. I absolutely won't be offended and can suggest another person you could work with.

Signed

Date:

Client:

Consultant:

