

# 3 Super Simple Steps to Stay Inspired Post-Conference

## Step 1. Review Your Notes

- **Make sure your notes make sense.**  
In your rush to copy down information, did you leave out any key words? Essential transitions? Try to reread your notes with a fresh eye to make sure they will make sense later, when you've forgotten the context.
- **Highlight key information.**  
What ideas did you find especially helpful? What information do you want to be able to find easily 6 months down the road? Judicious use of colored pens or highlighters can make your notes easy to scan--helping you create a fabulous source of future inspiration.
- **Record your insights.**  
Any insights into your writing projects? These might arise from writing exercises you did during a workshop, or from a speaker's words that really hit home, or from a critique. Don't let those flashes of insight go to waste. Definitely don't trust yourself to "just remember" them! Instead, record the key information someplace where you'll see it the next time you work on that project.

## Step 2. Get Organized

- **Record deadlines.**  
Do you plan to submit to any of those wonderful industry professionals you met during the conference? Many editors and agents allow attendees to submit to them post-conference, even if they normally accept submissions only from agents or by referral. However, some only do so during a limited window available of time--in which case, you need to get their deadlines on your calendar and get to work.

- **Add items to your to-do list.** What action did the conference inspire you to take? What deadlines do you need to remember? Put them on your calendar, your to-list, your wall--whatever you use to stay inspired and focused day-to-day.
  
- **Add to your inspiration list.**  
The evening or day after the conference is a great time to review your notes and ideas and use them to help you brainstorm more ideas. The truth is that you probably didn't have time to pursue every idea sparked by every session while you were at the conference. Take time to follow up on those stray thoughts before their trail grows cold!
  
- **Track your peeps.**  
Did you meet any amazing authors or illustrators you want to remember or keep in touch with? Any agents or editors you think might be perfect for your work--even if you don't plan to submit to them right away? Create a single place where you can record names and information to help you to remember
  - WHO these cool people are and
  - WHY you want to remember them.

Consider using an email folder, MS Word document, Evernote notebook, or whatever else feels most comfortable.

### Step 3. Follow Up

- **Send follow-up emails.**  
Did any authors offer to email their slides to attendees--like the fabulous Jen Halligan did after her 2014 presentation on book promotion? Or did a speaker volunteer to create a handout of key points--like the illustrious author/speaker Erin Dealey, at this year's conference? Make sure you send your follow-up email ASAP!