

# How did this query letter get to the top of the agent's slush pile? (and how can mine too?)

This author;  
Wrote a fantastic book.

Nothing else is more important. Write the best book you can. That is the ultimate test.

Has a writer's platform that can't be ignored

If you are a celebrity, or have a huge set of followers on the internet (in the millions) make sure the agents know.

Has previously published (traditionally).

Having a track record will certainly get you noticed. Magazine articles, short stories and other publishing credits count.

Was introduced to an agent by another publishing pro.

Getting an introduction from an editor or another agent will almost guarantee a look. Almost.

Pitched an agent in person and was invited to query.

Pitching in person is a great way to meet an agent and pique their interest. Just remember that you aren't the only one.

Wrote a polite, engaging, beautiful query letter.

Query letters are business letters, but they should still be exciting to read, full of promise and opportunity!

Read at least one book this agent represents.

Make sure you read something this agent has been a part of publishing, and mention it in your query.

Carefully researched this agent and agency.

Spend some time on Publishers Marketplace and the agency website to find out more about their recent deals.

Read every post on the best publishing websites and blogs.

The internet is full of wonderful websites that can help you to research agents and prepare your query. Try Writer Unboxed, Query Shark and Writers Digest to start.

Pitched an agent on Twitter and got a retweet.

Twitter pitch contests are fun ways to get the attention of an agent and move up in the pile.

Attended a writer's conference.

Meeting people in the publishing industry makes a difference. Go to a conference to network and learn.

Finished writing a novel.

Don't send the query if you aren't ready to send the full manuscript. Make sure you finish the book!

Spelled the agent's name correctly.

Pay attention to the details and be sure you know who you are talking too. Check and double check titles and pronouns.

Carefully edited their query letter.

Edit your letter like you would your manuscript; spelling, punctuation and grammar all matter.

Read and followed submission guidelines.

Guidelines are there for a reason. Follow them like the law or your query won't get reviewed.

Confirmed the agent's email address.

There is no way you'll get a look if the agent doesn't receive your query letter.

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