

9 Questions to Determine Whether You Should Self-Publish

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
[Self-Publishing for Beginners Part 1: Tools for Writers Series](#)*

Answer the following questions to determine whether self-publishing makes the most sense:

1. ***Have you always dreamed of getting published?*** If getting published is a life-long dream, you should give it a try. It's not impossible to get published, but it does take persistence and it may be worth it.
2. ***Do you already have a fan base?*** It's better to self-publish if you don't have name recognition. You can always pursue a traditional publisher after you've started to build a fan base around your book(s).
3. ***Are you okay with publishing a year or so from now?*** If you can wait, go with a traditional publisher. If you want your book to get published sooner rather than later, self-publish.
4. ***Do you want a payoff now or later?*** If you want to get paid now, go with a traditional publisher who will give you an advance on your expected book sales. But the process of getting a traditional publisher does take time.
5. ***Have you tried to get a literary agent but had no luck?*** If you're tired of getting rejection letters, go for self-publishing.
6. ***Is your book experimental?*** If your book doesn't fit within a standard genre or resemble popular literature that's easy to sell, opt to self-publish. It will be more difficult to get a traditional publisher to take a chance on experimental subject matter.
7. ***Do you want to DIY your publishing?*** If you want to take control of your publishing, definitely opt for self-publishing. But if you don't want to learn anything new, consider working with a one-stop-shop or pursuing a traditional publisher.
8. ***Are you only interested in a limited run?*** If you didn't write your book for the masses, but only for family, friends, or a small group, consider self-publishing.

9. ***Are you okay with hustling?*** Self-publishing means that you'll be responsible for marketing your book. But that's not a deal-breaker, because you'll likely need to promote your book yourself whether you traditionally publish or self-publish. However, if you work with a traditional publisher, they will have a marketing team to support you. If you choose to self-publish, you'll need to do all of the work yourself. But we can help. [Check out these 9 tips for marketing your first book.](#)