

## Tips for Getting Published

By Leah Kramer, founder of [Craftster.org](http://Craftster.org) and author of *The Craftster Guide to Nifty, Thrifty, and Kitschy Crafts* ([www.craftster.org/book/](http://www.craftster.org/book/))

Based on my trials and tribulations of getting my book published, here's what I would impart. I think the steps one should take are:

Step #1: Buy a book about how to write a non-fiction book proposal.

Step #2: Take your best crack at writing a book proposal for your book idea. Be prepared to do some serious homework, like gathering market data about crafting and about your subject in particular.

Step #3: Find a literary agent that you feel good about. If you have no idea how to go about finding one, write friendly emails to authors of other craft books and ask them if they wouldn't mind sharing who they used.

Step #4: Be prepared to work long and hard with your agent on perfecting your book proposal.

Why I highly recommend using an agent:

I didn't know how important it was to have an agent and I went really far down the road with a certain publisher who, it turns out, tried to take advantage of me. I ended up bringing in an agent to help me out with the situation, and that publisher refused to work with her. As you can imagine, this is the sign of a publisher with bad business practices. Luckily I was able to back out of working with this publisher altogether, and I started the process over with an agent.

Here are the reasons why I suggest using an agent:

A) Many publishers won't look at submissions sent directly from authors, but they will look at submissions from literary agents.

B) Your agent can help you get your book proposal in really great shape.

C) Your agent can make sure that the contract you are presented with is fair and is as much in your favor as possible. In general, I've learned in life that whenever contracts are involved, bringing in experts is such a good idea because they can see what's fair, unfair, unusual, what's missing, etc etc.

D) Your agent will take the weight of the negotiating process off your shoulders.

E) When all is said and done, people say that even though your agent takes

15% of what you make from the book, your agent can help you make more than you would have, and so this makes up for the 15%.