



Are You Ready for [#PitMad](#)? A Complete Checklist

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YES! You are ready!	Not quite ready? Try this:
<input type="checkbox"/> You have a completed manuscript.	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish a practice of writing 15 minutes or 500 words each day. <input type="checkbox"/> Join SCBWI (Society of Children’s Writers and Illustrators) for motivation and resources.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your critique group has seen several revisions of your manuscript, and you’ve considered and/or incorporated all their suggestions into your most recent draft.	<input type="checkbox"/> Join an online or in-person critique group for your genre. Good places to look for a group: SCBWI, AWA (Amherst Writers and Artists), Julie Hedlund’s 12 x 12 Picture Book Challenge , SubItClub Facebook group, KidLit 411 Manuscript Swap Facebook Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Your manuscript has been critiqued and copyedited by a professional, and you’ve polished it to the extent of your current capacity.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pay a developmental editor and/or copyeditor for a review of your manuscript. <input type="checkbox"/> Sign up for written or 1:1 critiques with industry professionals at writing conferences.
<input type="checkbox"/> You’ve written a query letter and polished it to a shine.	<input type="checkbox"/> Read more about the structure of a good query online. <input type="checkbox"/> Get feedback on your query and polish to perfection.
<input type="checkbox"/> You’ve done all of the above for every manuscript you intend to pitch.	<input type="checkbox"/> Go back make sure each manuscript and query is the best it can be!

<p><input type="checkbox"/> You've begun researching agents and compiling a list of "dream agents."</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Begin researching agents online. Places to start include: http://querytracker.net http://www.aaronline.org http://pred-ed.com</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> You've written four different elevator pitches for each manuscript.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each pitch is <140 characters, including the #genre hashtag and #PitMad. • Each pitch is a complete and enticing description of the manuscript. • As a set, the pitches demonstrate your skill as a writer, the tone of your manuscript, and the uniqueness of your story. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Read about how to craft a compelling pitch here: https://subitclub.wordpress.com/2014/10/07/elevator-pitches-that-go-to-the-top-floor-part-15-it-doesnt-stay-in-the-elevator/</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Submit your pitch to Susanna Leonard Hill's Would You Read It Wednesday contest for feedback. http://susannahill.blogspot.com/p/would-you-read-it.html</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> You've drafted 6 different versions of each pitch by changing word and character order, so you have a total of 24 pitches for each manuscript.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Read about how to switch up your pitches here: https://subitclub.wordpress.com/2014/12/03/flip-that-pitch/</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> You've signed up for a Tweetdeck or Hootsuite, spent 5 minutes learning how to use it, and an hour scheduling all your tweets for the day of #PitMad.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Download Tweetdeck or Hootsuite. Watch a quick lesson about how to schedule tweets on Tweetdeck or Hootsuite.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Just prior to the event, you've tweeted your followers to let them know you're participating, so they understand why they're about to be swamped with manuscript pitches for the next twelve hours.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Be sure to tell them to RT your pitches to increase your chances of being noticed by an agent. The #PitMad feed is crazy-fast.</p>
<p>Say yes to all? You're ready! Good luck!</p>	<p>Not quite ready yet? Keep at it. Your dream agent wants to see your best.</p>

"Do what you want to do, and you will have already succeeded."

–Paraphrased from Christian Robinson, illustrator of Rain!, Josephine, Gaston & more.