

# Pre-Pitch Party Checklist

*By Elise Carlson*



It's a week away from a pitch party right for your book. (You can check which one(s) [here](#)). What can you do to get ready over the week? (Or earlier 😊).

**1. Pitch & Crafting it Advice.** Have you read advice on and crafted your pitch in advance?

My best advice on crafting a standard pitch is [here](#).

**2. Hashtags.** Have you checked the hashtag list for your party to see which hashtags agents will search to find pitches? (Site list [here](#)). (Heads up, in #Pitmad Fantasy is #F but for #SFFPit its #FA, so double checking you're on the right hashtags is recommended!)

Have you typed your pitch and hashtags into a tweet or done a character count to check each pitch fits the 280 character limit?

**3. Pitch Feedback Parties.** Have you checked if #Mockpit or #Pracpit are running before your party? (These are practice parties, where writers tweet pitches on the tag and give each other feedback). If you're pitching in #WMPitch, have you checked when #PeerPitch (its feedback party) is on? And if you're doing #DVPit, look out for #PreDVPit.

**4. Feedback Alternatives.** You can also tweet asking for feedback, search your pitch party's hashtag for anyone offering it on Twitter or join a Discord Server with a pitch feedback channel. If you'd like to join my Discord Server (the #StrictlyWriting Community), let me know by replying to this [tweet](#).

**5. RT or Comment List.**

Tweeting offering to add writers to a twitter list where you can RT or comment on each other's pitches is a good way to encourage each other and to boost your pitch visibility. If you don't want to make your own list, I suggest searching the pitch party hashtag for people offering to put writers on their lists. This is also another chance to connect with and support writers you've traded pitch feedback with.

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**6. Pitch Party Crew.** Pitch parties are lonely (and more stressful) affairs on your own.

Creating or joining a Group DM on Twitter, or a Discord Group to share pitches for RTs and comments and to chat, commiserate, celebrate successes and cheer each other on makes Party Day much more enjoyable. You might like to tweet on the party hashtag to see who'd like to join your DM Group, or you're welcome to join mine. This is an old tweet, but you can let me know here.

**7. Timezones.** Check which time zone your party runs on and how it compares to yours.

Parties are usually East Coast American time, but NOT always (#WMPitch saw many writers pitching for many hours after its BTS finish time passed). (Fellow Aussies and Kiwi writers -don't forget the starting date and or finish date for us may be a day later).

**8. Schedule Your Pitches.** You can do this on Twitter by opening the tweet box, typing your pitch, then selecting the schedule button (right of the emoji button). This takes the pressure off during the party if you're awake, and means you don't have to stay up late or get up horribly early to participate if your timezone is unkind to pitch parties.

**9. Tweeting to Explain Pitch Party Etiquette.** It never hurts to tell your followers you're pitching. It's even better to explain that they can support you by boosting your impressions with an RT, and or encouraging you with comments on your pitches (check the rules on RT for your party, as some don't allow RTs). It's also good to explain that during a pitch party a ♥ is how literary agents and indie publishers request submissions, as there are always well-meaning writers who don't know (or forget) this.

**10. Mind Set.** September's #Pitmad saw over 280k tweets on the hashtag. Its possible your pitches won't be seen by industry professionals. Its common not to get industry requests. But if you go in expecting nothing from the industry, and prepare with the goal of improving your pitch craft and or of making writer friends -and of testing how your pitches are received by fellow writers to learn what works well for future parties- you'll be all set for a positive party experience.

*Whichever parties you participate in,  
Good Luck!*



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