

# Popularity Secrets

I know I could be a *lot* more popular as a writer. Particularly *locally*.

All it would take is for me to **lie**.

I would have to spout Patriotically Correct (the *other* "PC") things, such as military worship, respect for cops, and unabashed love for "public" schools, while also gushing over the region's most popular *supernatural* religion.

I could criticize these beloved things as long as I never questioned their basic goodness and necessity; only quibbling over tiny details that most people around here could agree with me on. I could question "how" it is done, not whether doing it is unnecessary or wrong.

If I did this I would have countless people patting me on the back, praising me to my relatives, and possibly even *subscribing* in greater numbers. I might even get job offers!

It wouldn't take any increase in writing skill or better grammar or anything else. I could do it from where I am now. In fact, I could probably relax a great deal and still get away with it, if I said "the right things".

It's not worth it, of course, but I will admit there are times it almost seems like it would be. It gets tiresome being the pariah.