

## STAGES IN AN AUTHOR'S CAREER \*

By Rosalinda Alfaro-LeFevre, RN, MSN

**An author's career takes many turns. I have observed nine stages in an author's career:**

1. You're thrilled because you have a contract for your book or article.
2. You're thrilled because you made your deadline.
3. You're thrilled because your first publication is finally out.
4. You're even more thrilled because someone has cited you in an article!
5. You finally locate that article you've been wanting to read because it's in your field and you don't want to miss it. Only problem is that when you open it, you immediately see a citation that gives you credit for something you never wrote.
6. You get an e-mail from a colleague who is on a listserv that posts comments in a chat room. Only problem is that someone has misquoted you to defend her position and now the whole world thinks you advocate something you don't.
7. You spend hours going through your own book to be sure you didn't say what the chat room person says you did. Then you diplomatically send a correction to all the e-mail addresses on the listserv.
8. You know you've arrived in the world of fame, feeling empathy for those poor people in the tabloids and realizing you have to take the bad with the good.
9. You start a new project full of enthusiasm because no matter the emotional swings and risks, you have a passion to get your message out.

**Author Background:** Rosalinda Alfaro-LeFevre, RN, MSN, is the author of *Critical Thinking and Clinical Judgment: A Practical Approach* and *Applying Nursing Process: A Tool for Critical Thinking*.

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