



How To Become A Freelance Writer Guide

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“
Write. Rewrite. When not
writing or rewriting, read. I
know of no shortcuts.”-
Larry L. King



FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED

Congratulations!

You're a freelance writer. Before you print your business card, there are a few things you must check off your list of things you will need for your new career. A few minimum requirements besides a reliable laptop will include: Access to the internet, a great grasp on English grammar, and a few reference books to assist in your research. Your computer is your money maker. If your computer is not reliable, you may want to invest in a laptop or PC.

The great part about being a freelance writer is that you have flexibility in your schedule, you can work remotely, and you are able to negotiate rates for your work. Freelance writers are more common nowadays. Why? Due to technology,

“ Anybody who is in
freelance work,
especially artistically,
knows that it comes
with all the insecurity
and the ups and
downs. It's a really
frightening life.” -
Alessandro Nivola



the demand for relevant and fresh content puts freelance writers into high demand.

Many platforms such as Upwork and Guru help new and experienced freelance writers meet potential clients from across the world.

Be advised that by choosing a career as a freelance writer your career is contingent upon your discipline and work ethic. The market is very competitive and filled with freelancers of various levels. Choosing to become a freelance writer requires hard work and the ability to meet deadlines. Be prepared for frequent fluctuations of cash flow and the slow and steady pace of building a portfolio. Consistency is key to your success as a freelance writer.



Truthfully, freelance writing is not for the faint of heart. Many people dream of becoming a freelance writer because it looks cool. Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

If you are comfortable in a more structured environment with someone to micro manage you daily. Freelancing is not the career for you.

However, if you are the type who likes to get up in the morning and get on with it, there is no reason why you shouldn't find success as a freelance writer.



PUBLISHING YOUR WORK

The first step on any writer's career path is to get published. Seeing your name in print is a great accomplishment for a writer. How do you go about getting your name in print?

Freelancing is one part your portfolio and clips. The other half is about your marketing strategy. You have to know where, how, and when to connect with your potential client. A lot of freelance writers find early success by choosing a niche. A niche is a specific genre or subject. Successful niches include health, beauty, law, medical, and fitness.

Establish a website to highlight your work. Your website should be filled with samples of your writing, testimonials from previous clients, and how to contact you for future opportunities. Want to get your work noticed? Always add your name to directories for freelance writers, network with like-minded people, and research potential clients before submitting warm email.

What happens if you are marketing yourself and you still have trouble finding clients? Keep writing! Once your niche topic is searchable on Google, your clients will read your work, and seek your assistance for their website or organization. Remember, freelance writing is not a sprint, it's a marathon.

“Imagination is like a muscle. I found out that the more I wrote, the bigger it got.” -

Philip Jose Farmer



THE BIG IDEA

Hasn't everything been said and done before? There is no doubt there are tons of articles on almost every subject matter on the internet. We live in the Information Era, articles are easy to find within a matter of minutes. One of the most challenging parts about being a freelance writer is coming up with ideas. You will grow tired and frustrated with the creative process. Most creatives hit a wall and ultimately quit.

Here's the thing you must remember as a freelance writer, ideas will come at you from all angles and different times. As a professional freelance writer, a notepad and pen will become your best friend. Ideas may come and go often. You will need a resource to help you jot down the ideas in a hurry. Often, you'll find yourself saying, "I'll remember that for later." When later arrives, it's hard to revisit the brilliant idea. Once you become disciplined in your profession as a writer you will begin to develop healthy habits that will contribute to your success. Another great resource tool for idea is to create a spreadsheet on your computer. When you're in between clients or doing research write down topics that you run across. Revise and edit the title and make it your own and when it's time to write for a client you will be prepared and not overwhelmed. Writers are avid readers. Always pick up a book, newspaper, or magazine for inspiration for your next big idea.