

Creative Writing

There are 10 Articles in this set, just read and scroll down. At the bottom of the page click next for the next set of articles.

Some links at the end of each article may or may not work.

1. The Biggest Challenge Facing A Poet, Getting Published

by: Rose DesRochers

The best advice that I can give any child or adult who wants to be a poet is to read lots of poetry. Get a feel for poetry. Look at different styles of poetry. I have grown so much in my own writing by reading the work of other poets. Don't be afraid to accept constructive criticism. Part of being a writer is being able to accept criticism. Everyone who writes poetry is eager to publish a book but why not start out small. Before you send off your poetry for publication ask yourself if you are ready. It might be wise to Join an online poetry community and share your poetry with other poets who will be honest with you and offer some constructive criticism.

Once you are ready to take that plunge the best place to start is poetry magazines and ezines . You might also want to check some publishers that accept poetry for anthologies. You are going to want to purchase a copy of Poet's Market that is published annually. This is an essential book for poets who are interested in publishing their work. For younger poets some places you might want to check out are Poetry for Kids , Teen Ink and About.com's Creative Writing for Teens.

You are also going to want to reach your market. You are going to want to see just what kind of poetry the magazine publishes as often time's magazines will receive poetry that is just not right for their magazine. Submission guidelines are on most sites and many magazines will post a sample of poems that can be found in their magazine.

When submitting your poetry to magazines. Always present it in typescript, using a simple 10 or 12 point font like Arial or Times New Roman. Present a cover letter that is professional addressing the magazine editor by their name. Offer the poems for publication in their magazines, be sure to list your other publications if any and thank the editor for considering your work for possible publication. Send them about five of your poems and always include a S.A.E. (Self Addressed Envelope) with your submission. Editors most times do not return your poems but without submitting a S.A.E. your poems won't even be looked at. Also make sure that you have included enough return postage in your S.A.E.

Example of a cover letter:

Dear (name),

Please consider the enclosed poems for publication in (name of magazine). I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for your reply. Thank you for your consideration of my work for possible publication. Your very brief bio here and other publications here.)

If you are submitting by email make sure that you follow the guidelines on the website. Most publishers prefer the poem to be submitted as an attachment in word document. If you are unsure of the guidelines it never hurts to email the editor and ask them. You should never submit a poem that has already been published or that you have sent to another magazine to be published. This includes if you have published them on your own homepage. In most cases magazines will consider a poem posted on your website or an open poetry community to be already published. Therefore you will not be able to claim first rights to it and most magazines; newspapers etc will not accept it as submission.

Sandra Soli of byline magazine says if a poem appears on a web page, it is published. If a poem can be accessed via the general internet user, it is published. On the other hand, if the forum is closed to a limited membership and your poem is not available for general viewing, then she would consider that a workshopped item just as in a private critique group. This concerns how easily the piece can be accessed by readers. Most web appearances are open to all and byline magazines considers that to be a publication.

The Pedestal Magazine quotes "The Pedestal Magazine would consider such a piece previously published, in that it has been inserted into the public domain

If you are submitting work that has already appeared in the web for publication, mention in the cover letter the forum(s) where the poems have been posted and let the editor make an informed decision. You really do not want to do anything that jeopardizes your chances of seeing your poem published. Also be sure to keep track of all your submissions. Then prepare yourself also for a long wait. Chicken Soup for the soul states that they receive 100 stories per day and it takes up to three years to develop a book.

Poets should not be discouraged by rejections. Part of being a poet or any kind of writer is preparing yourself for rejection. Trust me I'm an over sensitive person and when I got my first rejection letter I thought it was the end of the world. But I later learned that a rejection letter does not mean that you are by any means a bad poet. A rejection letter should never discourage you from pursuing your craft. Not all poetry will be published but find comfort in knowing that someday somewhere your poem will find its rightful reader. By all means consider me and every other writer who has been rejected on your side. Having your poetry published is only one part of writing. Until it happens and you have that first publication enjoy your writing and join a community and find a few good readers and supporters of your work and be proud that you took the step and sent your poetry off to be considered for publication.

I have a confession of my own I have only had my poetry published in a few newspapers, ezines, and my own book that was published by one of the worse publishers out there but that has not discourage me one bit from working towards fulfilling my dreams or wishing my fellow poets great success. I have had my accomplishments and one of the greatest is seeing that an article such as this one I have just written might help just one of you. Many poets end up self-publishing their own writing and that isn't a bad rout to go either. To find out about self publishing and pod publishing be sure to read my article Publishing and Promoting of Poetry Anthologies and Chapbooks

Goodluck and have fun writing.

About The Author

Rose is a published author from Canada Ontario and is also the founder of <http://www.todays-woman.net> a community for men and women over 18, where writers/poets/columnists meet and exchange ideas, contest, rate and review and help each other succeed in the writing industry. Check out Rose's first poetry book "She is like the wind" and purchase poetry that is sure to be a world of emotion on a canvas that is her soul.

2. The Right Words Can Make You Wealthy

by: Hermas Haynes

Imagine you're in a darkened movie theatre watching a suspense thriller, and the scene you are engrossed in shows a beautiful woman walking alone on a dimly lit, shadowy street. The only sound is the rhythmic noise of her shoes against the pavement.

The camera moves in for a closeup of her feet, revealing black fishnet stockings that disappear into stylish, expensive, red shoes. Then, slowly, the camera zooms out, retreating along the street from where she just came. The sound of her footsteps fades as she recedes into the distance.

A scrap of paper comes into view, tumbling over itself. It continues its lazy somersault through the air encouraged by a gentle breeze, then slides along the street until it is abruptly halted, trapped between the pavement and a man's muddy boot. Immediately you realize the woman is being stalked.

Suddenly, from the back of the theatre a loud, authoritative voice shouts: "Fire! Get out!"

What would you do? Would you shrug your shoulders and wait for the movie scene to play out, or would you respond to your survival instinct and get out of there as fast as you could?

The answer is obvious. Those three little words would move you to vacate the theatre immediately because they connected with your natural impulse to avoid danger.

That's the kind of response great copywriting evokes. It uses the right words to reach the audience on an emotional level, then gets them to behave according to the wishes of the writer.

Copywriting is as much technique as it is art, and is perhaps the single most important contributor to a profitable online business.

- It is what separates your Web site's promotional copy from the competition's.
- It is the riveting subject line that gets your e-mail opened and read.
- It is the classified and banner advertisement that people click.
- It is the clever business slogan or tag line that everyone associates with you.

Words are powerful tools and can be arranged to impact the reader however you wish. They can be forceful, compelling, subtle, persuasive, instructive or hypnotic. They can lead your reader to a buying decision or turn them away.

When developing promotional copy for your Web site, it helps to include snappy action words, paint pictures, create images and tell stories. Explain how easily your product can solve a user's problem, or save time, or make the job easier. Highlight your product's benefits.

Any writing style can work. Your approach can be serious, funny, whimsical or introspective. And you don't have to be bashful about showing aspects of your personality in your writing. That could help your readers relate to you.

Also, it is always important to write with your reader in mind. Let the nature of your product and the audience you are targeting, guide you on which writing style to use.

If, for example, you were promoting a software application designed to help highly educated college professors manage the dissertations of their doctorate candidates, you could probably elevate your writing style and language to match their academic and intellectual level.

They may find it a turn-on and be more receptive to your message.

On the other hand, if you were trying to interest teenagers in your latest interactive game, your copywriting style should be much more relaxed, informal, and sprinkled with the vocabulary and expressions gamers use.

Words form the basis of our communication and the way we use them never fails to leave an impression on the reader or listener. That places copywriting high on the list of effective marketing tools currently available.

In today's bustling Internet marketplace, amidst a world of imitators and look-alikes, all it takes for you and your business to stand out in the alphabetic soup of marketing methods, is a little imagination, courage and the right words. With them, you could literally write your way to wealth.

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Hermas Haynes is an Internet marketer and Webmaster. He offers an informative and compelling blueprint on how to create and manage your own profitable online business in six simple steps. You can download a free preview at: <http://SixFigureProfits.net>.

3. Top 10 Tips to Complete a Creative Writing Project Without Losing Your Creativity

by: Ginger Blanchette

Have you ever started a creative writing project with great excitement, only to have your interest dwindle as the process, itself, interfere with your creativity? How do you keep the momentum going and continue to enjoy the creative process? Follow these tips for high creativity, fun and success!

1. Create a writing environment that inspires you.

Create a place in your home or outdoors that calls you to write. Consider light, color, sound, scent, taste, writing materials.

2. Follow *The Artist's Way*, by Julia Cameron.

I highly recommend this book. It keeps you focused, observant, playful, and creative - and it keeps you believing in yourself as a writer!

3. Choose your writing project in a joyful way.

When choosing a writing project, come from your heart - not your head. Be playful. Be creative about how you choose your project.

4. Make a creative representation of the project's ideal end.

Draw, paint - use a creative medium other than writing to represent the completed project. Consider, especially, how you will feel when it's done. Put your model in a prominent place. Use this to trigger the desired feeling, before the completion - every day!

5. Make a timeline with celebration points.

Make it visually appealing. Have a step-by-step outline and celebrate creatively as you complete each step.

6. Create an R&D Team for your project.

Contact a number of your friends, colleagues, and readers. Invite them to join your R&D Team. Send them snippets of what you write, questions you have about the process, or anything else you want input on - on a regular basis. Their input will keep you going.

7. Keep Creating & Editing times separate.

If you edit while you write, the process can become boring. Clearly block a specific amount of time for editing into your schedule. Don't let it interfere with your creative writing time!

8. If blocked, shake things up!

Do something fun, unusual, active! Get your mind somewhere else and move your body. Your creative side will work in your subconscious while you're at play. Read the tips in *The Artist's Way*. There are also many resources on the internet for handling writers' block. Check some of these links:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_block.html

<http://www.sff.net/people/LisaRC/>

<http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/block.html>

9. Have a Fan Club.

Critics and editors are fine, but have a few friends or family members who you can ask to cheer you on or cheer you up, no matter what you write. Hire a Creativity Coach to keep you focused and to be an

unbiased supporter of your creative success!

10. Celebrate in a big way!

When you reach the big finish, give it a big finish! Do something you've always wanted to do, but have never done before. Make the finish so memorable that you'll be eager to begin your next creative writing project!

About The Author

Ginger Blanchette is a Life and Business Coach who supports her clients to share their creativity. She works with professionals and business people who are ready to complete big projects involving writing and/or public speaking and to be recognized for what they do! Contact her at www.lanterncoach.com

4. Unusual Points of View **by: Rita Marie Keller**

Most writers are familiar with first and third points of view and their variations. But have you ever experimented with alternative points of view? Below are some less used points of view, what I call “unusual points of view.” Try using these when you’re blocked or you want to try something new.

Second Person Point of View

Second person can be written as “you” singular or plural. Josip Novakovich in FICTION WRITER’S WORKSHOP says: “The author makes believe he’s talking to someone, describing what the person addressed is doing. But the ‘you’ is not the reader, though sometimes it’s hard to get rid of the impression the author is addressing you directly.”

Here’s an excerpt from Italo Calvino’s first chapter of *If on a winter night a traveler*. I think it’s one of the most engaging examples of second person point of view. But if the author is not speaking to the reader...then to whom? You be the judge.

You are about to begin reading Italo Calvino’s new novel, *If on a winter’s night a traveler*. Relax. Concentrate. Dispel every other thought. Let the world around you fade. Best to close the door; the TV is always on in the next room. Tell others right away, “No, I don’t want to watch TV!” Raise your voice—they won’t hear you otherwise—“I’m reading! I don’t want to be disturbed!” . . . So here you are now, ready to attack the first lines of the first page. You prepare to recognize the unmistakable tone of the author . . .

Most stories told in second person are written in the present tense, so the reader identifies directly with the character. You’re along for the journey, being an active part of the story. I read this excerpt feeling as if the author sees me and is talking directly to me.

Like other points of view, second person has its pitfalls. One of them is keeping the reader’s attention through the whole story (in this example, an entire novel). Some readers don’t like to be told what they’re thinking and doing and saying. Sometimes this point of view has a tendency to sound too journalistic or like a recipe.

First Person Collective Observer Point of View (or third person plural)

In this point of view the reader follows the motions and acts of one person through a group’s viewpoint. Usually, someone in the group acts as narrator but doesn’t have his/her own identity. Usually this is reserved for small town narratives, where an individual lives under communal scrutiny. Schools, towns, churches, or families focus on a secret person in conflict with the community. In William Faulkner’s “*A Rose for Emily*” Emily is the character scrutinized by the residents of Yoknapatawpha County.

Here is an excerpt from the story which occurs after she is put in the ground and what “we” discover.

For a long while we just stood there, looking at the profound and fleshless grin. The body had apparently once lain in the attitude of an embrace, but now the long deep sleep that outlasts love, that conquers even the grimace of love, had cuckolded him . . . Then we noticed that in the second pillow was an indentation of a head. One of us lifted something from it, leaning forward, that fast and invisible dust dry and acrid in the nostrils, we saw a long strand of iron-gray hair.

Third Person Plural Observer (“They”)

Here the perceptions of a critical situation comes from a group of characters who watch the protagonist. It could be a group of boys watching a teenage girl undressing in her window as in: “They saw her in the window.” The excerpt from “*A Rose for Emily*” might as easily be written in the point of view.

First and Second Combined

This point of view is usually used in love poetry, and rarely in fiction. In this example from “The Roaring Bull and Electra,” a short story, it’s an adult daughter speaking to her father too ill to speak for himself.

Today the new Roaring Bull was christened, and I wanted you to be next to me as you had been, twenty years ago . . . Now you can’t speak. You can barely swallow. I used to feed you melted ice cream and stroke your throat to get it down because I thought the taste would remind you of our ferry rides . . .

First and Third Combined

This point of view is used for characters with a personality dichotomy, to look at the same character from different angles. In “Sarah Cole: A Type of Love Story” Russell Banks does this to portray a narcissistic man’s affair with a homely woman.

I felt warmed by her presence and was flirtatious and bold, a little pushy even.

Picture this. The man, tanned, limber . . . enters the apartment behind the woman.

The switch to third person is the character taking a look at himself, the way one might want to see himself projected onscreen. The shift in point of view might be annoying to the reader, so it’s important to establish this shift pattern early in your story.

Try this exercise:

Choose one of your favorite stories and rewrite a scene from it in one of the “unusual points of view.” You might want to try rewriting one of the excerpts above. In your exercise show the original passage, then your changed point of view (or points of view). You get extra brownie points if you write a scene from scratch. This is a challenging exercise, but it also shows you don’t have to be limited by variations of first and third person.

Let go, breathe deep, and have fun with it!

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About The Author

Rita Marie Keller has written and published numerous stories, articles, and essays. Her first novel, *Living in the City*, was released September 2002 by Booklocker.com, Inc. She founded the Cacoethes Scribendi Creative Writing Workshop (www.cacoethes-scribendi.com) in 1999.

5. What Can Go Into A Plot?

by: Nick Vernon

Creative Writing Tips –

We all tackle plotting differently. How you plot will be individual to you, as it is with every writer.

Below is an outline of what can go into a plot. How much you choose to develop each point is entirely up to you.

So some basic questions to ask are...

1. Briefly what your story is about
2. The theme?
3. Main Characters
 - a. For main characters it's best to write a full biography of them.
4. Secondary Characters
 - a. Who are they?
 - b. What will their role be?
 - c. What is their relationship with main character?
5. Beginning of the story
 - a. Viewpoint – who will be telling the story?
 - b. Setting – where will the story take place?
 - c. How will you introduce main character?
 - d. How will you introduce other characters?
 - e. How will the story begin?
 - f. What will happen in the beginning?
 - g. What is the conflict?
 - h. What is the character's goal?
 - i. How will the conflict prevent the character from reaching his goal?
 - j. What's motivating the character?
6. Middle of the story
 - a. What will happen in the beginning section, of the middle of your story?
 - b. How will this be tied to the beginning of your story?
 - c. What will happen in the middle section, of the middle of your story?
 - d. What will happen in the end section, of the middle of your story?
 - e. What events are going to occur?
 - f. How will you show your character's personality?
 - g. What problems are you going to introduce? (List each problem and how the character solves it)
 - h. How are you going to make things harder for your character?
 - i. What will happen in the climax?
7. End of the story
 - a. Will the character achieve his goal?
 - b. How will he or won't he achieve it?
 - c. What's going to happen in the end?
 - d. How are you going to end your story?

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Or if you prefer you can plot in scenes...

First, figure out how many scenes your story will contain. Then plot each scene.

### Scene one

- a. Setting
- b. Introduce characters
- c. Introduce conflict
- d. Introduce goals
- e. What will happen in the first scene?
- f. How will your first scene develop the character and the story?

### Scene two

- a. Introduce first problem
- b. What does the character feel about this? What does he think?
- c. Have the character solve the problem
- d. Begin making things harder for him
- e. How will the second scene develop the character and the story?

### Scene three

- a. Throw another obstacle in your character's path
- b. Have him solve it
- c. How will the third scene develop the character and the story?

Etc...

How you plot doesn't matter. The most important thing is To plot.

### **About The Author**

Besides his passion for writing, Nick Vernon runs an online gift site where you will find gift information, articles and readers' funny stories.

Visit <http://www.we-recommend.com>

## 6. Why Do I Write – A Masochists Dream

by: Marie Pacha

My website administrator has given me an assignment. I am to write an article and explain why it is that I write. That sounded so simple until I sat staring at this blank expanse of white.

Do you want the dramatic version, or the logical one that almost makes sense; well at least if you know me? Oh heck, I'm just going to start writing and see what comes out.

Let me tell you what I believe about words to begin with, and because I believe some of my most profound statements come out in rhyme that's how you are going to get them.

What is this place? Why it is SO unique!!  
Look, I have eyes, and a face, are those FEET?

There's a blob on my face. I shall call it a nose.  
And those wiggly things on my feet, shall be toes.

There on the keyboard, those must be hands,  
connected to the rest, by long bendable bands.

At the end of my hands, are those fingers or toes?  
I guess it's my choice, cause who really knows.

Words were created so people could share,  
all the things that they lived with, with others who cared.

If I called that flower, and you called it star,  
our conversations wouldn't go very far.

But until someone said so, who really knew,  
if I wore on my foot, an umbrella or shoe?

I hope you get the drift of that poem. I was in a silly mood when I wrote it, and yet it says exactly what I meant it to...that words are the basis of communication, and the commonality of our language allows us to share ideas and learn from one another. And what I do with my writing is take those words and weave them into a poem or a story to communicate to you, or to anyone else interested in reading what passed through my mind.

I write because sometimes I need to release ideas that have formed. Seeing the clarity or confusion of my thoughts on paper helps me to sort them out and figure out exactly how I feel about things. I express my deepest feelings in my poems, and if any of them make you cry you should know that my face was probably wet as well. My dearest friends tell me to write when they know I am in a mood about something, because they know that writing heals me. I can't tell you why it works that way though I know it does; maybe it's just a release.

That was the dramatic version. The logical one is that I am better at expressing myself in writing. Not so very long ago I went back to college to attain some academic credentials and also to take any and all classes that would help me become a better writer. To obtain a degree I had to take a speech class.

You'd think I would be pretty good with words. I have had poetry readings and I've been talking my head off at my kids for 33 years, but put in front of an audience (no matter how small) and all those words I so carefully composed go straight out of my head to God knows where. Nope, I'm not a public speaker. I did discover while taking that class that there are parts of our brains that govern our abilities to use words. In my particular case the area for the spoken word is underdeveloped.

But that's okay. You put me in front of a keyboard and my fingers take wing, only having trouble keeping up with my brain as I compose.

There's one other reason I write. As I have gotten just a bit older I've realized that it's all too easy to sit back and keep quiet about something I don't like as opposed to speaking my mind and kicking up a fuss. But if I don't speak my mind how is anyone going to know that I don't like something? And maybe, just maybe, someone else out there agrees with me and is just sitting back and keeping quiet too. Maybe some things do need to be changed, and maybe my words will instigate that change. I'm not worried about being politically correct anymore, and if someone criticizes me for being irrational I just write it off to menopause. (I've found that to be a wonderfully effective excuse!)

I write because there are things I want to say. I hope you find them interesting as you read them!

Marie Pacha “exploded onto the writing scene” in 2001. Her first two ebooks are soon to be re-released in hard copy and her latest two are in bookstores now.

Get Marie's Newsletter: The Dragon's Digest  
<mailto:ezinesubscribe@dragonsaerie.pfwh.net>

Enter a world of magic, mayhem and humor.

<http://dragonsaerie.pfwh.net>

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## **7. Why You Need a Newsletter**

**by: Stephen Earley Jordan, II**

If you're a small business owner you definitely need promotion. And, if you're a freelancer—you ARE the product—so you'll ultimately need self-promotion. Newsletters can not only inform your customers of future events, discounts, and services, but can serve as a helpful source of information for you to analyze the growth and success of your business.

Newsletters can be published and distributed according to individual business needs (weekly, bimonthly, quarterly, and annually, etc.). Printing costs can be kept to a minimum with black & white printing; or if your budget is a bit more expendable, capture your reader's attention with a vibrant-colored logo, text and graphics. Whether you use b&w or color printing, adding a newsletter into your budget keeps and attracts new clients! Let's see the different types of newsletters and discover which best suits your needs. Newsletters can range from In the Office (ITO) Newsletters to Out of the Office (OOTO) Newsletters. More importantly, each one serves its own separate purpose.

**Inter-Office (ITO) Newsletters.** ITO Newsletters may be somewhat casual generated simply for the purpose of notifying those with whom you work. Educate employees by placing this type of newsletter in their office mailbox or on their desk.

- **New Procedures, Policies and Guidelines.** Rules and regulations change within a company without a moment's notice. Give employees no excuse for claiming the e-mail was never received regarding the new methods in which the office may be run. Eliminate constant runs to Human Resources.
- **Promotions, Employment Announcements.** Assist employees in celebrating their joy by introducing the new employees, the latest promotions, the latest job openings and even the continued growth of the company.
- **Miscellaneous (Birth Announcements, Retirement Parties, etc.).** Allow your employees to be a part of the family and feel at-home while in the office by listing personal, yet instructive, data regarding their lives. Better still, inform the employees of the holiday parties.

**Out of the Office (OOTO) Newsletters.** OOTO Newsletters are a bit more formal. Here's your chance to win, gain and retain customers. Think of this as a promotional tool sent out via postal mail or distributed face-to-face.

- **Press Releases.** Here, you can inform people of your new (or already established) business and why your services are so innovative.
- **Latest Discounts.** Often businesses will offer discounts or coupons to be redeemed during the holiday season or perhaps you want to offer a referral discount to those who recommend your services. If this is the case, a newsletter is the place to inform the customers of the price cut.
- **Latest Services.** During the past few months you've built-up your business to the point where you're comfortable adding new services. Here's the chance to explain how these services can best assist their needs, and how this addition is merely a fulfillment of the customers' requests.
- **Ingenious tips.** Why else should people use your services? Well, because you're always filled with wonderful tips regarding your products and services. Share some of your wonderful ideas with customers to allow them to feel even more confident in your services. Keep them coming by offering an insider's tip in each issue.

Keep the number of pages to a minimum. After all, this is a newsletter, not a magazine or newspaper. Newsletters are best if designed to be read in one sitting.

## **About The Author**

Stephen Jordan has five years experience within the educational publishing industry. Stephen was a freelance editor with such educational foundations as Princeton Review, The College Board, New York University, and Columbia University. Away from the office, Stephen promotes his creative writing with his home-freelance business OutStretch Publications and his artwork. Stephen holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in writing and literature from Alderson-Broaddus College of Philippi, West Virginia

## **8. Writer's Web Resources**

**by: Janet K. Ilacqua**

The Internet has truly revolutionized the careers of writers worldwide. Now you can work for publishers, corporations and a whole range of other clients on a truly global scale. Whether you are in the heart of a big city, or in a remote mountain village, all you need is an Internet connection to run your writing business.

The opportunity is fantastic, and so is the writer's life that you could enjoy. But where can you find the jobs you need to establish a full-time writing career?

One way to start is through working the Internet job boards. Here also included and listed separately are resources for business and technical writers, editors, journalists, and translators.

Writers' Resources--General

Absolute Write - freelance writing, screenwriting, playwriting, writing novels, nonfiction, comic book writing, greeting cards, poetry, songwriting. One stop shop

Emily's Writing for the Web Emily A. Vander Veer gives professional writers the tools needed to promote, publish, and sell work to the largest and fastest-growing market in the world: the Web.

e-Writer's Place For writing inspirations, motivations and prescriptions.

Freelance Writers is a searchable database of writers from all around the world.

Freelance Writing This is the ultimate job board for freelance writers.

Freelance Writing Organization - Int'l This site hosts one of the largest free writing resource links databases in the world! It offers education, daily news, a writer's store, creativity advice and forums, to name a few of the resources. Over 2,000 free writing resources in 40+ categories of writing

FundsForWriters - A plethora of sources where freelance writers can find paying jobs

Momwriters A community of professional and new writers ... who face the unique challenges of writing with children underfoot.

National Writer's Union 'The only U.S. trade union for freelance and contract writers.' We offer contract advice, grievance resolution, health & dental plans, member education, Job Hotline, and networking.

See also: Writers Union Job Hotline

Published! Articles and resources...from Marcia Yudkin, author of eleven books and hundreds of magazine articles, syndicated columnist, public radio commentator, writing coach

Published - The Directory of Independent Writers & Artists. searchable directory of independent Writers & Artists

SharpWriter Grammar. Complete writing resources. Lot of good stuff here but not geared expressly for freelancers

Suite101 This is an online community for writers. Not only is this a great site for work-at-home resources. You can apply to become an editor for them and get paid for your work.

Sunoasis Jobs for Writers, Editors, and Copywriters Employment opportunities for writers, journalists, new-media types on-line off-line in reporting feature writing reviewing editing free-lancing editorial content providing etc. ... Recently submitted job offers: Copywriter, Freelance. Monarch Design, a design and advertising agency,

The Burry Man Writers Center freelance job links, resources for fiction and nonfiction writers, working

professionals and beginners

with particular support for writing about Scotland

The New Writer - the monthly magazine with the best in fact, fiction and poetry. aimed at all writers: the short story writer, the novelist, the poet, feature writer, anyone with a serious intent to develop their writing to meet the expectations of today's editors.

The Writers Home A Web Site For Writers, Editors And Lovers Of The Written Word.

TrAce Online Writing Community trAce connects writers and readers around the world ... with the focus on creativity, collaboration and training. New media writing, web development

Worldwide Freelance Writer How to sell your writing overseas. Find out where to sell your freelance work. Detailed guidelines for paying writing markets all over the world.

WriteCraft Writers Resource Center Companion to the WriteCraft Critique Group - where writers learn the trade.

writejobs Job Title. Company. Location. Proofreader/editor. Bioedit Ltd. Freelance. Digital Photography Writers ...

Writers Unbound Writing resources, Internet resources related to writing, writers, publishing, e-publishing, authors and more. Articles and resources related to creative writing.

Writer's Software SuperCenter Writer's Software SuperCenter has software for writing books, articles, novels, and screenplays, including Writer's Blocks software, StyleWriter editing software, StoryCraft, and more!

Writing World - Moira Allen provides writing tips, markets, news, contests and more.

The Writer's Gazette Writing resource site for writers on freelance and publishing, including articles, job board, contests . Nice, comprehensive list of writers' job boards.

Business and Technical

Copywriter world Freelance writers bid for writing projects such as resume writing, documents in APA style or MLA style writing, poems, sonnets, research papers, business plans, your biography, free e-books, your business proposal, essays, marketing plans, web content, ghost writing, ad copy, catalogs... virtually any form of writing.

Freelance Online - a professional online service for freelancers in the publishing and advertising fields. Free for employers; freelancers pay \$15.00/year for membership.

Freelance Success Freelance Success is a community of professional, nonfiction writers who subscribe to a newsletter that guides them toward well-paying markets and editors. There is not a job board located on this site.

Techwriters Employs technical writers on and off site. The pay is excellent, but you must have a lot of experience with the topics

[writingassist.com](http://writingassist.com) Provides local freelance technical writers for projects such as manuals, policies, software documentation, and work flow integration.

Children's Literature

Institute of Children's Literature offered the premiere writing course, books, and a newsletter to adults interested in learning how to write and be published for children and teens.

Editing

Manuscript Editing Fiction and Non-fiction; Serving writers, literary agents, and publishers since 1976.

## Fiction

Fiction Factor - The Online Magazine for Fiction Writers. NEW!

## International markets

Australian Writer's Marketplace The essential resource for getting published in Australia and New Zealand.

Author Network - resources for writers including links, articles, monthly columns and ePublishing services.

Canadian Writer's Journal Canada's Independent Writer's Magazine.

Freelance Spain - the online Spanish resource for editors and journalists.

[FreelanceJournalist.co.uk](http://FreelanceJournalist.co.uk) Helping journalists build a presence on the web. The web directory for UK freelance journalists.

[Freelancers.co.uk](http://Freelancers.co.uk) offers you the complete guide to freelancing for publishers as a copyeditor or proofreader.

New Zealand Writers Website Writing Resources for New Zealand writers

[writelinkpro.co.uk](http://writelinkpro.co.uk) WritelinkPRO is the content provider for top UK monthly newsletter and website. We pay on acceptance for writing articles, fiction, poetry, reviews. We offer free e-book workshops, free e-book on travel writing, exclusive Members Area.

## Journalism

International Federation of Journalists - The world's largest organization of journalists, representing around 450,000 members in more than 100 countries.

News Jobs Network Journalisms resources and News jobs in US, Canada and Utah.

UK Links 4 Journalists the most useful sites on the web. This is the journalist's section.

## Translation

ProZ: Freelance translators, translation services, agencies, jobs and directory ...

Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia Fostering creative writing and the profession of writing in Nova Scotia.

Writerfind New Zealand Linking New Zealand writers with local and global markets.

## Playwriters

writernetwork. We provide dramatic writers with the tools they need to build better careers and redefine the

## About The Author

Janet K. Ilacqua is a freelance writer based in Tracy, California. She specializes in academic writing and ghostwriting of books and manuals for individuals and small businesses. For more information about her services, check her website at <http://www.writeupondemand.com>.

## **9. Writing Short Info Reports**

**by: Dan J. Fry**

People want information, they want it quick, frequently in short form, and straight to the point. Its no wonder that they go straight for a computer connected to the internet to find anything from how to grow tomatoes to choosing a web host.

As a home business owner, this "information revolution" as I like to call it, is only to your benefit. After all, you are in the business of trying to give people what they want time and again. So, give them the information they crave.

Now, e-books are a wonderful way to , but in the spirit of the Infopreneur, short high content reports which I like to call info-reports are perhaps even better. If formulated carefully, they can even be put to use to literally explode the size of an opt-in list of subscribers. To proceed you simply develop several high content short reports, targeted at a specific market which you would like to add to your subscriber base, and give it away free just for subscribing to your newsletter. With content, and the word "free", many people will flock to subscribe. Best of all this is a win-win situation: You pick up valuable subscribers to interact with on a weekly basis, and your subscribers receive valuable information from you.

So, how is it done you ask?

### **Report Ideas**

Almost any idea you have can be made into a short report. However, not every idea is in demand.

Try this out.

Sit down with pen and paper in a quite location. Yes, you read correctly. I said pen and paper. It is easier from a work perspective to sit in front of your monitor, but past experience has taught me that the creative side of my brain works better with pen and paper. Of course it is up to what ever works for you.

Now, write down a short list of topics that you are semi-familiar with. I say "semi" because you can always perform a bit of research to learn more. These topics can be on anything: gardening, cooking, computer programming, specific hobbies, construction, research, medicine, etc.

After you have made your list, weed out the topics that are not associated with your business. For instance, if your business is computer programming, you probably don't want to focus on creating a short report on gardening. The reasoning here is to target your market. Gardening info is not targeted to the computer programming market.

Now pick one or two topics, open a word processor, or even your notebook, and start writing every little bit of information you know on the subject.

### **Putting It Together**

I recommend structuring your report similar to a book report. Remember writing those in school? Why a book report? The focus here is short and informative. This isn't creative writing. You don't want to go off on some tangent about literary prose. Short, concise, and highly informative information to guide others is what works here.

### **Format And Packaging**

Format is somewhat of a personal preference. But, keep computing platform in mind. There are numerous e-book compilers, many free, that can be used to create a small exe file of your report. The advantage here is that it can be created in web page format and then compiled with links that when

clicked will actually open in the e-book window. One downside however is that as far as I have been able to tell they only compile in PC format. So, anyone with a Mac will not be able to view the file.

I have used Easy e-Book Creator for several short reports. It is simple and easy to use. I create the pages in HTML format using Microsoft Frontpage and then compile. If you want the full version without the Easy e-Book Creator logo and with added security features, you can purchase a license for about \$20. The resulting e-book is in exe format. e-Book Compiler also has a free trial version. I however was not as happy with it.

PDF is essentially universal. Just about anyone these days can open a pdf. The problem is that pdf file creators are rather pricey. An alternative is the Microsoft Reader plug-in for Word. Microsoft is attempting to compete with Adobe in creating a new standard. The software is free to download from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com/reader/developers/downloads/rmr.asp> .

### Distribution

After all else is done, its time to get your report to market. Now, there is not a single definitive way to do this. I use e- zine advertising, classified ads, pay-per-click, and traffic exchanges to advertise short reports in the hopes of pulling interested readers to sign up for the e-Kinetic E-Zine. What is great about this method is that it truly is win-win. I gain new subscribers who I get to share interact with through the e-zine, and subscribers receive valuable information at zero cost.

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### **About The Author**

Dan J. Fry is an independent researcher and owner of [e-Kinetic.com](http://www.e-kinetic.com), a site devoted to providing resources for small budget home businesses. He has a PhD in Physics and is married with two daughters and two cats. Subscribe to his free E-Zine on home business resources at <mailto:e-kinetic@GetResponse.com> or by visiting his Infopreneur site at <http://www.e-kinetic.com>.

## 10. Writing Tips For Novice Authors

by: Patty Apostolides

If you are reading this article then you probably have asked yourself at some point in your life, "Do I have what it takes to become an author?"

I believe that successful authors, those who actually write and finish that novel, or book of poetry, or even that book of short stories, and see it all the way to publication, have certain characteristics.

### Characteristics of Authors

1. They like to sit for hours in front of a computer screen (or with pen and paper), typing (writing) away.
2. They think about their book, even when they're not writing.
3. They are motivated to finish their book.
4. They are motivated to proofread, edit and revise their finished book until it is the best it can be.
5. They are motivated to publish their book.
6. Once they publish the first book, they are already working on the next one.

If you answered yes to anyone of the above, then you have a good chance of attaining your dreams of becoming an author. Don't listen to those people who say it's a competitive market out there. Don't listen to those people who say they've written five books and haven't had one published yet. And don't listen to those people who send you back your manuscripts! Listen to yourself. Listen to that inner voice, the one that is whispering now. But wait until you get started. Once your book is written and published, that inner voice will be roaring! And the whole world will hear about it.

I know, I know. I tend to be the optimist. But we have so many pessimists in the book business, we sure need some more optimists around!

For you, the novice writer who would like to start writing that first book, the best way to begin is to start writing. Yes, just sit down and do it. Stop the other activities, the television, the reading, the shopping, the chatting on the telephone, and find the time to devote at least one hour a day to writing.

What's one hour a day in the scheme of things? It comes and goes like this, poof! What do you have to show after an hour of television? A lazy yawn? If that same hour were spent on writing, then there would be a product in your hands, something that will be shared, hopefully, one day with others.

So, go ahead, shut the door to the rest of the world for one hour (or more) and make yourself comfortable in front of the computer screen (or pen and paper). Let's take the first step to becoming an author.

### How To Begin

#### Foundation

Just like a construction company which builds a foundation to a home, you also need to prepare a foundation for your career in writing. Don't skip this step, it's important.

Your "foundation" will consist of basic writing skills. Remember those English courses you took in high school and college? If you don't remember anything from those courses, then it wouldn't be a bad idea if you found your old English textbooks, dusted them off a bit, and looked through their pages to refresh your memory.

If you haven't taken any courses in creative writing, you might consider signing up for one. Check with

your local community college. They often offer weekend and evening classes, and sometimes even online classes. If you're on a budget, then visit the public library and sign out books relevant to writing.

In addition, it would be very useful to join a writing group (online or in your local area) that critiques your work and gives you the opportunity to critique also. The group provides wonderful support and an avenue to sharpen your skills as you gain experience in writing, as well as exposure to other people's writing. For example, Writing.com is a good example of an online resource that provides many opportunities to share your writing, and get your work rated and reviewed. If you want to join a critique or review group, it offers that also.

The second step to becoming an author, is to have the right tools.

### Tools Needed

Besides a comfortable chair, plenty of lighting, and a quiet room, you will need a computer with a word processing program (e.g., Microsoft Word), a printer, and plenty of paper.

Why a computer? First of all, publishers typically will request a copy of your files sent to them on a floppy disk. More importantly, working with a word processing program will aid you in many ways towards becoming a published author. It will provide the opportunity to save your work as a Word file, without having to use up tons of paper (as with a typewriter). This greatly aids you in keeping your work organized. It also gives you the flexibility to edit and re-edit large sections of your work quickly by allowing you to utilize the copy and paste functions.

Other advantages of using a computer word processing program is that it provides spell check capabilities, and also helps you count the number of words per page. In addition, when you want to spice up your vocabulary (For example, if you like to use the word "walk" often, and are getting tired of that word), place your cursor on the word "walk", hit shift F7. It will give you a list of synonyms you can choose from - like stroll, amble, etc.).

The time saved by using a computer is very valuable. It gives you more time available to write! Of course, if you don't have the above materials, don't let that stop you from writing that book! Using a pen and paper is perfectly fine. Books were written with these two basic tools for centuries.

Let's assume you are using a computer and a Word processing software. First of all, before you begin writing, form a subdirectory that you can add all your chapters to. Maybe you know the title of your book already. Fine, then form a subdirectory using the name of the title. After you finish writing that first chapter (oh joy!), just save it as Chapter 1 under the subdirectory. If you are writing a book of poetry, then you might want to save each poem as a separate file.

When I write my chapters for my novel, I format them in double space mode, with a Times New Roman 11 font. All the margins are at least one inch. This way it will be ready for manuscript submission.

Try not to add your page numbers until the very last revision. Page numbers constantly change when you're revising, so wait until the end.

Finally, another reason for having a computer is for Internet access. As a writer, you will have opportunities to submit your fiction online, such as <http://www.Writing.com>, or even your articles online for e-zines, such as <http://www.articlecity.com>. Any chance you can get to write online, do it. As long as it doesn't take too much time away from your book. It's also a free way of promoting yourself before the book is even published.

So you need to balance your time in writing that book, honing your writing skills, submitting your work along the way for others to critique, and promoting yourself. Can you do it? Of course you can!

The third step to becoming an author is:

### What to Write

If you are planning to write a novel, it would help to know what general category your book is going to be in. Will it be in the romance, mystery, or science fiction category? If you don't know, take some time and think about it. Read some books in those genres. Which books seem to attract you the most? It's highly likely that you'll be writing in the category that you like to read. My preference is romance because I read those types of books the most. Once you decide the category, then you are closer to writing that novel!

For poetry, you might start by writing a poem and submitting it to a poetry journal, or a poetry contest. Gain exposure for your poetry. Join a critique group so you can sharpen your poetry skills. A chapbook usually consists of about 25-35 poems. For a poetry book, you'll need at least 60 pages of poetry, if not more.

### Types of Novelists

I have found over time, that there are two types of novelists. The first type is the writer who prefers drawing up a proposal or plan of what they will write about. The second type prefers to write whatever comes into their mind at that moment.

You decide which writer you will be.

#### Type 1 Novelist

They begin by describing the characters, their names, personalities, and sometimes their motives. Then they decide when and where the setting will take place. When will it take place? If it takes place before the 1900's, then it will be considered historical. Also, will the setting be in the country, in a city (which city?), in a house (whose house), on a cruise ship? That needs to be defined also.

Once those decisions are made, they write brief sketches of each chapter. It could be a page or two long. Once all this is done, then the real writing begins. If this method works for you, then feel free to use it. It may take some time, but you will become more confident about what you'll write once you go through this initial process.

#### Type 2 Novelist

What if you're the type of person who doesn't want to spend all that time writing proposals and character sketches? What if you're like me, who prefers to just write whatever comes into your head? Then do it! Sit down and start writing. Write anything.

As the story develops, something wonderful begins brewing in your mind. Something called creativity. I've caught myself hours after I finished writing a chapter, and I'll be preparing dinner, or walking somewhere, and a scene from my novel will begin to unfold. It's called creative problem solving. My mind is working to solve the problem that the writing presents it, even though I'm not actively writing. When I get those urges, I immediately stop what I'm doing and jot down my thoughts. It's helped me many times, particularly when everything clicks together.

### How Long Will It Take?

It took me almost two years to write and find a publisher for my first novel, Lipsi's Daughter. For other people, it may take longer or shorter, depending on the amount of time they allow for writing and how many pages they are writing. I know of authors that took six, seven, up to twelve years to write their first book. I also know of a famous author who writes two novels a year!

So unless you begin writing that first page of your book, you'll never know how long it'll take you to

write it. Go ahead, make that first step, and good luck!

### **About The Author**

Patty Apostolides is an author and poet. She has written several articles as well as published the novel "Lipsi's Daughter." More information can be found on her website:

<http://www.geocities.com/10500bc/index.html>