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Online Writing Jobs for Freelance Writers

published by www.FreelanceWriting.com

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Learn About Freelance Copywriting Jobs

The word "copy" simply means material that a client wants published. A client might hire you to write copy online or offline, for a website, magazine, book, restaurant menu, brochures, posters, user manuals... the list is virtually endless.

Anything that needs writing needs a writer. This makes the list of freelance copywriting jobs seemingly infinite. If you have superior writing skills (i.e. excellent grammar and a skill for stringing words together), then you can become a great copywriter.

How much can I earn as a freelance copywriter?

Freelance copywriters regularly earn more than enough money to support themselves and their families. It takes hard work to establish a name for yourself and market your abilities to the public, but you can achieve a decent pay rate between \$35 and \$50 an hour.

Beginner freelance copywriters usually earn around \$20 per hour. Experienced freelancer copywriters earn \$50-75 per hour and up.

Where do I find freelance copywriting jobs?

The Internet is the ultimate resource for freelancing jobs. Join sites like www.Elance.com, www.Freelancer.com, www.oDesk.com, and www.Guru.com. All of these sites will let you create a profile that includes an online portfolio to showcase your work to potential clients. You can also visit www.WritingBids.com, which collects real-time job results from all of the major job bidding sites.

On the sites listed above, people post projects to hire writers, and freelance writers bid on them. It's a competitive business because many writers are willing to underbid just to get some quick cash. Usually, however, buyers are able to distinguish a poor writer from a good writer based on their bids, so you should still be able to earn reasonable wages. If you don't want to bid on jobs, you can find many help-wanted-ads seeking freelance copywriters at Indeed.com.

How do I showcase myself as a freelance copywriter?

If you have some experience under your belt, create a website of your own so clients can come to you. Copywriters with their own websites regularly earn more than those who bid on freelancing websites, simply because a website lends credibility to your abilities.

Whether you're writing copy for your own website or responding to an ad, make sure your writing style reflects the image you want to convey.

This means you should have perfect grammar, flawless spelling and syntax, and zero typos, no matter what. If you can't get your own advertising materials right, why should clients trust you with their projects?

How do I pitch myself as a freelance copywriter?

Okay, so you have the grammar down. Now what?

Well, this is where you want to appeal to the market segment of the job you're trying to land. Many freelance copywriters lose copywriting jobs because they generalize their bids. Resist the temptation to tell potential clients everything you've ever done and every type of writing you can handle.

For example, it's much better to tell a restaurant owner who wants new menus this:

I specialize in creating menus that tantalize customers and enhance your restaurant's reputation. I can make even mac and cheese sound like a delicacy!

instead of this:

I'm an expert in writing web copy, e-books, promotional material, and reports. Whatever your writing need, I can handle it for you.

The reason the second way won't work is because clients want to pay a copywriter to share the passion they have for their projects, whether they realize it or not. You wouldn't believe the number of copywriters who respond to an ad the second way, just because they don't want to spend a lot of time bidding.

Sample ad for you to try:

Read the ad below and see if you can figure out how to make an enticing bid:

I need someone to help me write an e-book about natural cures for depression. I have done all the research myself and it's mostly organized into chapter headings. I just need a great writer to make it come to life. It's an educational book but it should be easy to read, too. No technical mumbo-jumbo.

All right, this person has put together a book outline that she obviously cares a lot about. To impress her, you'll need to respond to her bid that shows you share her enthusiasm for the subject matter.

Try something like:

I think it's wonderful you've put together such a worthwhile book. Depression is an epidemic in our country and I would be honored to be part of a project that works toward a solution.

That's a great start. Remember, if you take the time to tailor your bid to suit the project, you'll have no problem standing out from the crowd as a freelance copywriter.

Learn About Freelance Travel Writing Jobs

Freelance travel writing sounds glamorous: travel the seven continents, experience everything firsthand, and share your memories with the world.

The reality of travel writing is that it's hard work in a competitive industry. Many people who travel think, "Hey, I'll write an article about this." You'll need to stand out from the crowd to get paid as a travel writer.

What's involved in freelance travel writing?

The best thing about travel writing is – no surprise here – the travel. If you like to see different parts of the world, travel writing may be for you.

However, don't expect a travel magazine to send you places, all expenses paid. That is a big fat myth. People selling e-books and online courses want you to believe this myth so you'll pay hundreds of dollars for "embellished" information. It does happen, but rarely, and only if the editor can see a good reason to not make you pay yourself.

Also, remember that travel writing means working while you're traveling. It can take the fun out of your journeys if you must meet a deadline and you are constantly thinking about how you can spin your fun adventures into a sellable article.

Who is looking for freelance travel writers?

Many travel magazines seek out the services of freelance writers, because freelance writers provide most of their content. You could also try contacting one of the major publications of travel guides, such as Lonely Planet, Fromer's, or Fodor's.

If you lack experience, you might find it easier for an Internet site to publish you. Write your article and then search for websites that focus on that place. Most cities -- and even small towns -- have tourism websites for potential new visitors. Try approaching one of them to see if they'll pay for your article.

How much does freelance travel writing pay?

Don't expect to feed your family as a travel writer, especially if you're just starting out.

New writers usually earn less than \$100 per article, which doesn't exactly cover the money you shelled out for airfare, food, and a place to sleep.

Experienced travel writers who land great writing gigs can expect editors to pay them up to \$1,000 for a featured article, or \$10,000 to \$30,000 for an entire travel book. You'll have to put in the time, so be patient while you build up your portfolio.

If you want to freelance as a travel writer, then start out writing about places you've been to. Try to look at the money and the publication aspect as a fringe benefit of seeing some of the most beautiful places in the world.

How do I approach these companies?

You can approach prospective clients and editors in two ways:

(1) Submit a query letter. Editors at travel guide publications prefer query letters, and so do magazines and websites. To craft a query letter, make sure you're familiar with the goals and style of the publication you want to write for. Write your query letter that briefly explains the article you'd like to submit, as well as why the publication should hire you. Include any publishing credentials you may have.

(2) Or, just send the article. This sometimes works for websites and magazines. If you think you have a great article that matches perfectly for a given publication, send it and see what they say. You'll also want to include a brief letter explaining how much you enjoy their publication and how honored you'd be to join their team of writers.

In either case, the key is research. Know your publication before you send anything. Remember: it's the editor you have to impress. Also, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope – it almost guarantees they'll get back to you.

A brief example

Check out this ad to see if you can figure out how to impress an editor:

Currently accepting submissions for our publication of Backpackers Quarterly. Articles should be about

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experiences traveling, no more than 750 words.

Okay, the magazine is called “Backpackers Quarterly,” so the editor probably won't appreciate an article about a 5-star resort in Barbados. Only submit articles that fall under the category of “adventures on a budget,” and don't forget to include your credentials, if any, with your submission.

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Learn About Freelance Translation Jobs

As technology makes our world smaller, many businesses choose to promote themselves beyond the borders of the English-speaking world. This means translating their marketing materials into one or more different languages.

Do you write or read in a language other than English? If so, you can tap into individuals, colleges, and businesses seeking your services as a freelance translator. Whether you're translating or simply proofreading someone else's translation, you can find plenty of paying freelance jobs in this field.

Who is hiring freelance translators?

Many international and domestic businesses that serve various ethnicities need freelance translators. In the US, it is often essential to have your promotional materials in Spanish as well as English. In Canada, people are usually looking for French/English translation.

More often than not, companies with websites are the ones that hire freelance translators. It makes sense: it's more cost-effective to reach international clientele through the Internet. Yes, they have a website, but now they want to market to Japan – that's where, you, the freelance translator, comes in.

On the other side, foreign businesses want to market themselves in the US or Canada. That means they need someone like you to translate from the foreign language into flawless English.

What skills do I need as a freelance translator?

Your skills depend on the job. Writing in a foreign language is more difficult than reading in one. Even if you have a solid command of a foreign language, you may not have educated yourself to the extent that you can write it effortlessly, with all the colloquialisms and nuances of a native speaker. If that's the case, stick to the jobs where you're translating to English.

Of course, if you can write in a foreign language as a foreigner can, go for it – you are a rare commodity!

Where can I find freelance translation jobs?

Search for freelance translation jobs at [www.Online Writing Jobs](http://www.OnlineWritingJobs) and [www.Writing Bids](http://www.WritingBids). These sites help freelance translators connect with clients who translation services.

Freelancing websites like www.Guru.com and www.Freelancer.com are also excellent resources, especially if you know a highly sought-after language like French, Spanish, German, or many of the Asian languages.

On these sites you bid for projects, which can be competitive for more run-of-the-mill freelance work. For translation projects, it's a whole different story. There are few capable translators out there, so your bid will often be the only bid.

If you don't speak one of the more "popular" translation languages, don't worry – you can still find projects that pop up occasionally. Look at it this way: the rarer the language, the rarer the competition!

How can I quote appropriately for a freelance translation job?

Because your freelance translation services are in high demand, you can quote high, but do your best to estimate what the client can afford. If it's a startup project, chances are they don't have a ton of money to throw around.

That said, freelance translators can expect to earn at least \$35 per hour and can charge much more as they build up a portfolio of happy customers. You have a unique skill, so don't undersell yourself. Use the marketing concept called "prestige pricing" -- if you lowball your prices, potential clients will assume you aren't good enough for them to pay you well.

How should I respond to a translation job ad?

Always present yourself professionally. Clients need to trust that you can handle the job because they (usually) have no immediate way of checking to see how accurate your translation is.

Read the sample ad below and ask yourself how you'd respond:

We have Japanese documents that must be translated to English for a business meeting. Please only respond if you can translate about 25 pages within one week. US English only.

If you can handle translating that quantity of Japanese in a short timeframe, then decide if you want to respond to the ad.

When you respond, make sure you:

- 1. Emphasize your translation skills and what qualifies you as an expert translator.*
- 2. Reassure the client that your English is of a professional caliber, so the documents will be appropriate for a business meeting.*
- 3. Estimate your fee based on the time you need to complete the project.*

Remember that people usually need translators because they can't do it themselves. Demonstrate your ability and integrity, and you should enjoy substantial success as a freelance translator.

Learn About Freelance Technical Writing Jobs

If you have specialized knowledge other than how to be a great writer, then technical writing may be for you.

Technical writing combines your writing talent with a specific area of expertise, such as IT, graphic design, education, engineering, the automotive industry, etc. You could be writing for others who are already familiar with the field, or you could be writing to teach others.

How much does technical writing pay?

Freelance technical writers often get paid very well, anywhere from \$40 to \$100 per hour or more. Technical writers command a higher rate of pay because it takes much more than polished writing skills to do the job.

Where can I find technical writing jobs?

The Internet is the ideal resource, especially if you're just getting started. Check out freelance tech jobs from www.Online-Writing-Jobs.com and www.WritingBids.com. These sites offer many postings by companies seeking freelance technical writers in a variety of industries.

I also recommend you post your resume on an employment site like www.CareerBuilder.com or www.Monster.com. Because you have a specialized skill set, know that there will be people actively looking for you. Having your resume on this type of website will greatly increase your chances of getting a well-paid technical writing gig.

Another technique is to do some brainstorming. Ask yourself if you have a specialized skill set or knowledge base. If so, what companies are in your area that could use a writer with skills like yours? Contact those businesses directly with your resume and a letter explaining how difficult it can be to find a good technical writer and that you're available to help with any upcoming projects they may have.

What type of work will I be doing as a freelance technical writer?

In IT, technical writers are often creating software or hardware manuals from scratch, or writing about coding. In the education field, you may be writing textbooks or creating PowerPoint slides for online learning programs. You could also be writing assembly manuals for machines, preparing reports for a pharmaceutical company, or creating do-it-yourself manuals for home repairs, etc.

In any technical writing job, you'll need to have good writing and communication skills on top of your area of expertise. Technical writing projects are often collaborative, meaning you'll have to deal with other people and complete the project as a team. Even if you're working alone, your client will want to know how you're progressing and whether you're on track with what he or she is looking for. Expect lots of communication, either over the Internet or by phone.

How do I respond to an ad for a technical writer?

To maximize your chances of success, your response should include:

- A note about how valuable you feel the company is.
- A summary of your qualifications in the field of expertise.
- An overview of your superior writing ability.
- Any related experience you may have.

You could respond with a cover letter and resume or with a competitive bid on a freelancing website. Read the sample ad below to see if you could make a compelling candidate:

We are an online learning company specializing in business skills. We teach administrators, HR people, etc. to effectively coach employees and streamline day-to-day business. We design online courses and downloadable presentations. We need a writer to help us with our upcoming courses for next year.

To make maximum impact, your response needs to hit each of the four points above. For example, you might respond like so:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I've looked at your website and I must say that your material is very impressive! It's clear that you provide a lot of value to the businesses that use your services, and I would welcome the opportunity to join your team.

I hold a Bachelor of Commerce with a Human Resources designation. Throughout my education I designed various studies of employee behavior. Recently, I've been working as a consultant helping companies optimize employee productivity. I believe my skills may benefit you and your company.

In addition, I am an accomplished writer. I have written articles, reports, and web content. My clients are always pleased with my work because it is grammatically flawless, concise, and easily accessible to readers.

Thank you for considering me for this position.

*Sincerely,
(Your name)*

That's it! Just remember that you have a unique combination of highly sought-after skills, and you'll have your first technical writing job in no time.

Learn About Freelance Sports Writing Jobs

Imagine eating, breathing, and sleeping sports for a living. Does it sound like a dream job come true? Freelance sports writing may be for you!

What skills do I need as a freelance sports writer?

You may know a lot about sports, but not every sports fan should become a sports writer. Freelance sports writing requires great writing skills, including how to tell a story that helps the reader experience the moment with you. It's also better if you know a lot of history and trivia about many sports; the more versatile you are, the easier it will be to get a job.

Freelance sports writers write about games and tournaments; they follow the careers of players and do historical pieces on players or sports. Freelance sports writers often have the freedom to write about whatever they like, within the context of what's going on in a given season.

Where can I find freelance sports writing jobs?

Big companies like CNN, NBC, and ESPN are always looking for great sports writers, but you need sports writing experience to work for them.

To get that experience, check out listings at www.Indeed.com and www.Craigslist.org. At any given time, this website has a couple of dozen sports writing jobs available in smaller markets. Some are local newspapers, some are people looking for coverage of tournaments, and some are for online sports news sites.

Another idea is to sign up with Suite101.com, Webook.com, and/or Collegesports-fans.com. You won't make money from them at first (well, maybe a little, but we're talking less than \$10 a month), but these sites strive to publish quality material online, which will help you develop your sports writing portfolio.

The idea is to get as many clips as possible so you can arm yourself with a healthy portfolio of published material and apply at the bigger companies. Be patient – you will eventually get the experience you need to get the high paying jobs.

What pay rate can I expect as a freelance sports writer?

Once you have that all-important experience, you could be in reasonably high demand. Beginner sports writers earn about \$30 per article. Sports writing veterans make far more than that – around \$60-\$75 per hour, plus occasional perks like game tickets and travel expenses.

What's the best way to respond to an ad?

I can't stress this enough: you need experience before you can vie for well-paying jobs. Once you have some clips to showcase your writing talent, you must show potential clients that you're the right writer for the job.

How do you do that? Let's dissect a sample ad to see what we can come up with:

A new California sports website is about to launch and we need writers! We want articles about professional and college sports news. If you're opinionated, good with words, and of course, a die-hard California sports fan, we need you! Contact us ASAP at (address).

Deciding what an employer's needs are will help you to respond to the ad. The ad tells us what kind of writer they need. For example, you should know about California sports and you should know how to write articles that incorporate good keywords to attract the attention of the web surfers. The overall tone of the ad tells us that you should be energetic and capable to express opinions that engage people in debate; in other words, they want writers with an "edge."

Your response to the ad might be something like this:

Hello _____ ,
I think it's amazing you're starting this new website – it's just what California needs! I am an experienced sports writer with a real soft spot for California teams (go Lakers!).

For a new website, it's important to have writers who can help you generate web traffic. My articles are entertaining and thought-provoking. I also love to write about controversial topics that get a real web discussion going. I think my combination of experience, skill, and love of sports would be a major asset to your website.

Attached to this email, please find several clips of my previously published work in sports writing. Thanks so much for considering me as one of your new sports writers. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Sincerely,
your name*

As you can see, writing a reply can be straightforward once you know how to spot clues from a potential employer. Make every reply concise and compelling, and you will find your next freelance sports writing gig just around the corner!

Learn About Freelance SEO Writing Jobs

Ever since people realized they need the right keywords in the right places to rank their websites high in search engines, freelance SEO writers have had work – and plenty of it.

SEO stands for "Search Engine Optimization." Search engines (like Yahoo! and Google) scour webpages for certain words and then order them accordingly on the "Search Results" pages. The higher a website reaches on the "Search Results" page, the more searchers will notice it.

How much can I earn as a freelance SEO writer?

Companies hire SEO writers to turn their websites into marketing tools that increase their sales, and they're willing to pay good money. Depending on the company and your skill level, you can earn anywhere from \$10-\$50 per 500-750-word original article. If you can also host the company's site, write all their content, and monitor their visibility on search engines, expect a \$250 to \$3,500 monthly salary range. If you're just editing to incorporate keywords, expect only a few dollars per 500 words.

Who offers SEO writing jobs and what's involved?

Anyone with a business website can benefit from a freelance SEO writer. This is especially true when there's much competition, such as in the travel or real estate industries. If people can't find these companies on the first page of search results, then potential customers are unlikely to visit their websites.

That's where you come in. A great SEO freelancer will seamlessly integrate a couple of search terms or keywords into the pages of a website so search engines can easily find it.

The key here is "seamless." A website's text still must flow naturally despite adding keywords. You shouldn't use too many keywords (no more than a couple per page) and you shouldn't write an entire paragraph just to incorporate a keyword.

How can I find freelance SEO writing jobs?

The best place to start is freelance job websites

like www.Freelancer.com and www.Elance.com. You can market yourself on these websites as a freelance SEO writer and bid on dozens of SEO writing jobs. These sites receive new SEO job postings almost daily, so you'll always find freelance SEO work to bid on.

If you have experience in SEO freelancing, you can command top dollar. You should establish your own website to market your freelance services. If you can build your own website that attracts prospective clients, then it's a good indicator you can help others find their websites too!

How do I respond to an ad for an SEO writer effectively?

Put yourself in the shoes of the person who's looking for an SEO writer. What does he or she want to know?

Here's the answer: anyone looking for an SEO freelance writer wants to know three things:

- 1) you have a proven track record;
- 2) you have excellent grammar; and
- 3) you are creative enough to not make their keywords stick out like a sore thumb.

If you can show those things, you can create an enticing bid and convince clients to hire you.

Another key is providing a competitive quote. Freelance job websites make this tricky because you will always find someone who will bid less than you. The best advice is to make your bid equal your skill set and experience. If you don't have much experience, then use the opportunity to under-bid slightly to get the experience you need. Gradually your resume will grow and you'll be able to ask for more money.

An example of an SEO freelancer ad

Below is a sample ad that you might come across on one of the freelance job sites. See if you can figure out how to respond so the client would want to hire you:

I am a real estate agent with a large client base but very few find me via my website. I would like to update my website so it attracts more people and has more visibility on the Internet. I would prefer someone who knows how to use SEO words effectively.

This ad gives you the idea the realtor doesn't know much about SEO. In your response you'll want to assure him that you can handle SEO in his industry. A good tactic is to suggest certain keywords or keyword phrases he could use to rank his website higher. You'll also want to assure him that you'll optimize his content not just for search engines, but also for his readers. Remember, good SEO writing is not just about keywords – it's also about creative and effective marketing in general.

Learn About Freelance Resume Writing Jobs

Resume writing may not seem difficult for a writer like you, but for the average person it can cause serious anxiety attacks. Resumes are a job seeker's first impression at a potential new job – so he wants to get it right. Many people (rightly) don't trust their own abilities to prepare a great resume, so they hire a freelance resume writer to do it for them.

Resume writing can earn you anywhere from \$30 to \$300 per resume, even if you're a novice. No, it's not a typo, and it's not a bad chunk of change for one or two hours of your time!

How can I get freelance resume writing gigs?

Everyone needs a resume. Students looking for their first job, executives who want to move up the ladder, stay-at-home moms who are ready to go back to work, retirees who want a little extra cash... the list goes on.

The best way to find these jobs is to make it easy for the jobs to find you. Place an ad in the newspaper (weekends are usually best); or better yet, put one in the Yellow Pages. Even a small ad will draw much attention.

You can look online, as well, but usually the few you can find don't pay very well. A resume writing service may also hire you for your freelance services, but you'll make more money if you're in business for yourself.

What skills do I need to write a good resume?

First, you need flawless spelling and grammar. You also need an eye for the aesthetically pleasing format. A resume should flow logically, with lots of white space, professional fonts, that sort of thing.

Various jobs call for different resumes; if you aren't sure what goes best with what, then invest in a book on resume writing from your local bookstore. It will give you essential tips to write different resumes that, at first, may seem foreign to you.

It also helps if you're creative, especially if your client's work history is less than awe-inspiring. Have they done any volunteer work? Do they have any hobbies that may be

marketable as skills? Remember, people are hiring you to showcase them in their best possible light.

Of course, it's always a good idea to have a portfolio to show your future clients. If you don't have a portfolio of samples, then make some resumes up and put them in a folder. You don't need any actual experience, as long as you're willing to put in the time to create some samples.

What should I say to potential customers?

Okay, you've placed your ad and someone has contacted you to write a resume, but the person is wondering how much it costs. Now what?

Let's say you get an email from someone that says:

Hi there. I am in desperate need of a new resume. I'm in a dead-end fast food job and I really want to do something else. How much does it cost to get a new resume? Thanks, Rebecca.

Do you write this poor soul back with: "Thank you for your inquiry. My fee is \$75 per resume"? NO!

Although it's veiled, Rebecca's email asks much more than the price of a resume. She hates her job and she is desperate to move up in the world. Working in a fast food restaurant tells you she probably doesn't have many skills or anything better than a high school diploma (if that). She also probably doesn't have much money. In short, Rebecca wants to know if you're the person to help get her out of a depressing situation.

A response like the one below sends the message that yes, you are the person right for the task.

Hi Rebecca. Thanks for your email. It sounds like you don't have too much job experience, but don't worry – a good resume will show your new boss how great you were at your old job and how fast you can learn new skills. For

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\$45, I can make you a brand new resume with a real 'wow' factor. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Remember, your clients don't just want a resume. They want a job. Show them that you can help them get that job within their budget, and you're on your way to a profitable career in freelance resume writing!

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Learn About Freelance Public Relations Jobs

Public relations is an involved field of work for freelance writers. Freelance public relations usually entails writing reports, designing presentations, putting together ad campaigns, creating press releases, writing speeches, coaching, informing employees/clients/regulatory agencies about what's going on at the office, and so on.

In short, if you want to freelance as public relations writer, you need a diverse set of skills. This includes exceptional writing ability, a knack for marketing, superior computer skills (with knowledge of presentation and desktop publishing software), and exceptional customer service.

If you don't have these skills, you can probably outsource some of your work. However, hiring others to do your job for you will seriously dwindle your profits.

Who offers freelance public relations jobs?

Every publicly traded company needs PR people, including many private businesses. Marketing and communications firms are popular examples. In addition, government and non-profit organizations always seek the services of freelance PR writers. Museums, charities, and hospitals are just a few examples that encompass the endless list of organizations needing someone to handle their public relations.

To find public relations jobs, check out employment sites like www.Online-Writing-Jobs.com, www.CareerBuilder.com, and www.Monster.com, and www.Indeed.com. It's also smart to sign up with websites like www.WorkInPR.com that specialize in connecting PR job seekers with employers.

Don't forget to check out websites like www.Freelancer.com, www.oDesk.com, www.Elance.com, and www.Guru.com. These freelance job auction sites allow you to bid on projects that suit your timeline, scope of abilities, and desired income level.

How much money can I make in freelance public relations?

That depends on the PR work that you're doing. Freelance public relations encompasses many "sub-jobs," and consequently, each client will have different tasks that he or she wants you to oversee. A PR client may hire you to do everything from employee

newsletters to nationwide marketing campaigns; or the client may hire you to type, copyedit, and proofread press releases. You and your client will have to agree on the list of expectations.

If you're a jack-of-all-trades public relations writer, then don't charge less than \$40 an hour. If your client wants you to charge by the project (which is more common for large PR campaigns), estimate the number of hours you will need and then multiply it by your hourly rate. As your list of happy PR clients grows, you may want to charge more. Many PR freelancers make \$150 an hour and up.

In public relations, it is also common to charge by the day. PR professionals usually charge in the range of \$300 to \$1000 per day or more.

How do I properly respond to a public relations job ad?

Again, it depends on the work the client wants you to do. It also depends on the company it is. If a kids' soccer league were looking for a PR freelancer, you'd hope to quote them a far smaller fee than you would an oil and gas company!

To ensure you create the best response possible, follow these guidelines:

- 1.** Identify yourself as an extremely capable and professional PR freelancer.
- 2.** Assure the client that you can handle each of the items he or she listed in the ad.
- 3.** Mention how satisfied your previous clients have been with your work.

It's obviously much easier to get this complex job with prior experience. However, if you don't have previous PR clients, remember that any job experience with any required job skill is useful. For example, you may have written website content before. It's not PR experience technically, but it shows you can handle that aspect of the job.

Sample ad

Below is a sample ad for a public relations freelance writer. What would you include in your response?

We are a mid-sized software company that needs a public relations specialist to add energy to our existing ad campaigns. We want to be well positioned within our market to reach out to new customers and generate more sales. You will rewrite our marketing material, design slideshows, and create two press releases per month about our products.

First, let the advertiser know you're enthusiastic about this job opportunity. The company is looking for someone to re-energize their marketing efforts, so you should convey yourself as an energetic, dynamic person.

Second, address their task list. If you have relevant experience and satisfied past clients, discuss it here. If not, focus on how solid your skills are.

That's all there is to it! Getting the client excited about your abilities is the key to success in public relations.

Learn About Freelance Proofreading and Copy Editing Jobs

The terms "copy editing" and "proofreading" have distinct meanings. Copy editing is the revision right after the draft is finished. It includes correcting spelling, formatting, and grammar mistakes, as well as changing awkward sentences, ensuring that ideas flow well, eliminating ineffective portions of text, etc. Copyediting is a very involved, often lengthy process.

By contrast, proofreading is the final look-through before the creator turns in the document for publication, posting, grading, etc. It still involves correcting, formatting and grammar errors, but it does not usually include much sentence or idea restructuring. Proofreading can also include ensuring the creator of the document placed all photos correctly, hyperlinks work, sources are correct, etc.

What is the average pay rate for freelance proofreading/copyediting?

Both copyediting and proofreading can pay very well if you're good at what you do and you have adequate experience. Freelance rates are the same for both types of work, assuming proofreading takes less time than copy editing.

For both freelance jobs, it is common to charge by the hour or by the page. A brand new copyeditor or proofreader shouldn't ask for more than \$2/page or \$25/hour. Experienced copyeditors and proofreaders may charge up to \$15/page or \$75/hour or more.

What type of experience do I need to get these jobs?

Most importantly, you should have excellent grammar and spelling skills. You must have a keen eye for detail. Control freaks and perfectionists make great proofreaders and copyeditors because they don't let one mistake or inconsistency slip by them.

It's helpful if you have a degree in English or education, so clients will assume you have strong language skills. You'll also want to develop a strong portfolio of work that you can show to potential clients.

If you don't have any relevant education or experience, think outside the box. Have you

written anything at all? The answer is probably 'yes.' Put together some of your best work, such as resumes, reports, short stories, etc.

If you don't have any of this, then make some! It's okay for you to make sample documents from scratch – you're just trying to give people an idea of how good of a writer you are.

How can I find freelance proofreading/copyediting jobs?

Many individuals, schools, and businesses need copyeditors and proofreaders. Authors generate manuscripts, companies generate reports and presentations, students generate essays... all can and do use copyeditors and proofreaders.

If you're just getting started, search freelance jobs sites that I have mentioned before. Once you're more established, get your own website and make sure it's search engine optimized so that customers can find you. A dedicated website implies an additional level of credibility that will help you command higher fees.

What's the best way to respond to an ad?

When you come across an ad you like, respond to the needs and concerns of the client. Read this sample ad to see if you can spot what this client is looking for:

I've written a 200-page book. It's a fiction novel about a boy in Ancient Rome who grows up to be king. The manuscript is ready but I want one last read through before I submit it to publishers. I need mistakes fixed and maybe suggestions for parts that are hard or boring to read. Experienced editors only.

Okay, this ad asks for an experienced editor. Does that mean you shouldn't bid without a mile-long resume?

It sounds like what the author really wants is someone with an eagle eye to make his manuscript perfect before he sends it out for consideration by publishing houses. If you know you can do it despite a lack of experience, then go ahead and bid.

Online Writing Jobs for Freelance Writers

published by www.FreelanceWriting.com

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Emphasize your skills and provide examples of work you did in college or create some new samples. Do your best to include samples that relate to the author's work – in this case, fiction pieces, especially those that are historical in nature. Assure the author that you are more than capable of doing the job, and you'll have yourself a client!

published by <http://www.FreelanceWriting.com>

Learn About Freelance Medical Writing Jobs

If healthcare and medicine interest you, you'll probably enjoy freelance health and medical writing. Even if you're not versed in technical jargon, you can still find a place for yourself in the industry.

If you do have the technical background, you might be an excellent writer for pharmaceutical companies or an editor for medical journals. Otherwise, expect to find freelance jobs writing for magazines or websites about health, or in the health sections of newspapers.

Health and medical writers without backgrounds need to be excellent researchers. Look online or – better yet – go to a university library to update yourself on what's going on in the medical world the public finds interesting. Has there been a recent vaccination controversy? Is there a new exercise trend on the horizon? Do energy bars really work? The answers to those questions appeal to people interested in health and wellness. If you can find the answers, you'll have a sellable article.

Do I need experience to be a freelance health or medical writer?

Do you need proof that you've written these types of articles for others? Yes, almost always.

Do you also need proof that you got paid for what you wrote as a health or medical writer? Nope, absolutely not.

If you don't have the "almighty portfolio," never fear. Write a few health/wellness articles and send them to your community newsletter, those free city newspapers, hospitals, nursing homes, medical clinics, etc. You won't get paid, but editors will likely publish good articles.

Medical and health writers demand experience because you're working in a specialized area. However, two or three published articles are usually enough to get your first paid job. It'll just keep getting easier from there.

How do I find freelance medical writing jobs?

Once you have a few writing samples, it's time to start sending query letters. A query letter introduces you and your idea to an editor. Here are a few tips to write a compelling query letter:

- 1.** Know your editors. Read their magazines so you get a good feel for what articles editors may be looking for.
- 2.** Always introduce your idea before you introduce yourself. You can impress editors by original ideas, not by resumes. Editors won't glance at those clips you painstakingly collected if the editor doesn't like your idea.
- 3.** Focus on why an editor should publish your article. Yes, you need to tell the editor what you plan to write about -- your main goal is to sell the editor on the notion the magazine's readership will find your article interesting.

You may also want to approach editors of online health and medical sites, such as everydayhealth.com, healthline.com, and wellness.com. Again, make sure the nature of your article matches the content they publish.

Finally, try looking for job ads at the popular jobs site and outsourcing marketplaces. Visit FreelanceWriting.com's [Writer's Guidelines Database](#) where you can search for many health/medical publications that pay freelance writers for articles.

How much money can I earn?

It all depends on whom you're working for. Many magazines pay \$100 to \$300 for short, quality articles (they pay more if the article is longer). Websites usually pay less because they have plenty of writers trying to work for them. Editors may also pay you per word, between \$0.20/word and \$2.00/word and up, depending on your experience and the publication's reputation.

How should I respond to an ad?

You've come across an ad that appeals to you – congratulations! Read the sample ad

below to see if you can figure out the best way to respond:

Holistic Weekly Magazine is currently accepting articles on alternative health trends. \$0.50 to \$0.90 per word.

This ad doesn't tell you a lot, but it does tell you enough. Before you respond, go get a copy of Holistic Weekly and read it cover to cover. Once you have a solid grasp on what the magazine is all about, you're ready to pitch your article ideas.

This magazine seems to focus on alternative health, so you need to ask yourself whether your idea is relevant. Organic eating, "western medicine" scandals, and types of alternative health care might be ideas to get you started.

Remember: knowing your editor and your readership are important to get published.

Learn About Freelance Magazine Writing Jobs

Did you know that freelancers write most articles you find in magazines? Many newsstand magazines have few, if any, full-time writers. Almost every topic of interest imaginable has an associated magazine; if you like writing, you can find a magazine just right for you.

Magazines pay about \$0.75 to \$2.00 per word for nationally distributed magazines. Expect about \$0.10 to \$.35 per word for smaller, local publications.

What's involved in freelance magazine writing?

The magazine market has a large window of opportunity for freelance writers, but you must follow strict guidelines about language, word count, deadlines, etc. If an editor says he wants 800 words and you submit an 850-word article, then expect a rejection letter in the mail.

You'll also need to know how to pitch your skills so you and your submission appeals to editors. Magazine editors will overlook even very talented writers if they fail to market themselves appropriately.

How can I find freelance magazine writing jobs?

The Writer's Market is the #1 source for magazines looking for freelance writers. You can access their listings online or purchase their book at most major bookstores. Check out WritersMarket.com to subscribe.

Listings such as these are indispensable for freelance writers because they give details about submission requirements. Follow them exactly for the best chance of an editor accepting your article for publication.

You can also find several no-cost resources on the Internet for writers. www.Freelancewriting.com is a good place to start. FreelanceWriting.com maintains a growing database of [magazines seeking writers](#).

A word of caution: make sure any website you use is current. Submissions sent to the wrong person will tick editors off, even if you got the information from their own

website. Avoid this blunder by calling to confirm submission guidelines and contact info.

How do I put together a strong article submission?

The most common way is to submit a query letter, which means letting the magazine editor know who you are and what you'd like to submit.

Query letters are usually in writing and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (so you're sure to get a response). A good query letter answers these questions:

- 1.** Why is it critical for this magazine to publish your article?
- 2.** What do you plan to include in your article?
- 3.** What are your qualifications as a writer?

Like the article you intend to write, you should write your query letter in a concise and compelling format. Ask yourself what the editor's needs are. You need to make the editor who reads your query letter as excited about your article as you are.

You also need to outline whether you'll include quotes from experts, photos, etc. Finally, include any relevant clips you have from previous freelance writing gigs. In other words, if you're hoping to write a financial piece, don't send your clips about puppies and dessert recipes.

Proving your writing skills can be difficult if you're just getting started. If a magazine hasn't published you yet, try volunteer writing for community or school magazines. Save everything you have in print – it will get easier and easier to establish your credibility.

Another technique is simply to write the article for which you'd like to be paid and submit it to the magazine. It may take awhile to get a response, but this “shotgun” approach can help prove your writing skills without having much experience.

Whatever approach you choose, make sure to follow up in about a month if an editor hasn't replied. Editors appreciate a writer who shows he's serious about working for them.

Magazine solicitation example

Below is an example ad. See if you can spot what the magazine is looking for:

Topix is a magazine for teens devoted to keeping teens off drugs. We are currently accepting article submissions of 450-550 words. Please send submissions to Gloria at (address).

Not much information, right? Wrong! The ad has enough information to develop a great query letter. Here's what we know:

- The magazine is for teenagers so your article should use language that appeals to teens.
- The magazine's goal is to keep teens off drugs, so think of a topic that is cool for teens and promotes drug-free living. Ideas could be coping with peer pressure or drug-free fun on the weekend.
- You've got a guideline of 450-550 words, so follow it!

Knowing the magazine's audience and what editors are looking for is important to getting published in a magazine. If you can identify those two critical points, you'll be well on your way to freelancing for magazines.

Learn About Freelance Journalism Jobs

Breaking into journalism isn't easy. Besides polished creative writing skills, you need self-motivation and be willing to accept your share of low-paying gigs. Don't expect more than \$35 an article for smaller daily newspapers. Bigger-city newspapers will pay around \$200 an article for good stories.

Most full-time reporters received training at journalism schools, after they'd already earned a 4-year undergraduate degree. If you lack the education, you can still get your foot in the door by becoming a stringer (the industry term for "freelance reporter"). Many publications use stringers because they lack reporters to cover all the news at once; besides, newspapers want writers to hone their skills before they're hired full-time, or because they like the fresh perspectives of a good freelancer.

What's involved in freelance journalism / reporting?

This is the exciting part: as a freelance journalist, you get to chase the news as it's happening. For many, this thrill is enough to keep them going through the drudgery and low pay.

You'll need to keep your wits about you. If news is happening right in front of you, you must have the presence of mind to take accurate notes and come up with questions for on-the-spot interviews. Freelance journalism is all about recreating the story on paper so readers can relive the experience you had.

Where do I find freelance journalism jobs?

Before you approach any newspapers, you should have a portfolio of articles under your belt. Five to ten sample articles are the minimum. If you don't have published samples of your work, you'll need to do some freelance stringing for free to get started.

Hunt around for some newsworthy events – an upcoming concert, a celebrity coming to town, an impending election, etc. Then, write about it and submit your article to as many free publications as you can think of. You'll want to make sure your article is relevant to what a given magazine or newspaper publishes, of course, but be as prolific as possible.

When you have samples under your belt, make the pitch. Email the publication, or send them a query letter. Tell the editor you have some good ideas and you're available for freelance writing.

Alternatively, you might call the publication and let them know you're a freelance writer and you're wondering if they use stringers. Be brief, confident, and professional. If they do use stringers, they may ask you to come in for an interview.

You can also search for freelance journalism jobs at online employment sites like www.JournalismJobs.com, www.Online-Writing-Jobs.com, and www.MediaBistro.com.

How do I ace the interview?

Bring along your portfolio, a list of well thought-out ideas specifically for that publication, and a sample article that you've written for them. All of these will help the editor decide whether you're a good fit for their newspaper.

Some editors want their stringers to use their own ideas and some editors have ideas of their own. Be flexible. A good portfolio will show editors that you can handle a various subject matters.

As with all interviews, be relaxed and confident. Acting nervous and stammering over your words doesn't make a good impression. Before the interview, imagine the interview going perfectly. This technique helps calm your nerves and sets the stage for a positive interview experience.

Here's an example:

Let's say you want to write for your city newspaper. How would you craft your query letter?

It might go like this:

Dear (editor),

The content of your newspaper is unsurpassable. As a loyal

reader and enthusiastic writer, I would be honored to contribute to The Daily News.

Our city is full of excitement this season. Here are some of the story ideas I have that would appeal to your readership:

- How do the new pet bylaws affect downtown pet owners?
- Support our agriculture: homegrown food for your family
- The upcoming art show is attracting art lovers from all over North America
- How neighborhoods are improving road safety for pedestrians
- New schools and playgrounds encourage families to move inner city

These are just a few suggestions, and of course I am open to any ideas you have. As an experienced freelance writer, I have covered a wide variety of topics. I hope you will find the enclosed clips to be compelling and well written.

Show the editor that your writing style and journalistic abilities are in line with what they're looking for, and include your relevant experience. If you have a good query letter and they need freelance reporters, expect a phone call!

Learn About Freelance Grant Writing Jobs

Grant proposal writing is all about showcasing the pet project of a non-profit organization so that people want to contribute money.

Sound simple? It really isn't, but grant writing can be one of the more gratifying types of freelance writing if you aren't afraid of some hard work.

How much money can I make writing grant proposals?

If you can get your foot in the door, freelance grant writing can mean big money.

How big is big? Well, if you charge a flat fee, you can earn anywhere from \$100 to \$1000, depending on the project's complexity. Alternatively, many freelance grant writers choose to take a percentage of any funds their proposals generate. If you charge 5% and the grant is worth \$50,000, then that's \$2,500 in your pocket!

You may prefer to charge on a percentage basis when you're just starting out because non-profits like the idea of no upfront costs. If the organization agrees to hire you under these terms, then you'll get some experience that will make it easier to charge upfront fees in the future.

What exactly does a freelance grant writer do?

In some cases, you just write the grant proposal. The best grant proposals are the ones that stick out from the crowd. Remember, potential donors usually have stacks of proposals asking for cash; your grant proposal needs to shine to get a donor's attention.

In every grant proposal, you need to include:

1. The non-profit's vision statement
2. Detail of the project
3. How the project will make a difference in the community
4. How the non-profit will spend the grant money

5. What the non-profit will contribute (money, labor, etc.)

In many cases, the organization will want you to do much more than write their proposals. Don't be surprised if they expect you to do all the research related to the proposal, find grantors, send the proposals, keep track of what's gone where and who's said what, and prepare presentations – just in case the organization is asked to pitch their idea live and in person. You should include all of these tasks in your fee, so make sure you quote accordingly.

What skills do I need as a freelance grant writer?

Strong writing skills are important, but they aren't as important as solid research skills and over-the-top enthusiasm for the project. Grant donors say repeatedly that passionate grant proposals with spelling mistakes interest them more than grammatically-perfect documents with feigned interest.

You need to convince the non-profit that it's better to hire you than to write the grant proposal themselves. To win the job, you'll need to display superior research, organizational, and critical thinking skills, coupled with a genuine desire to help.

How do I find freelance grant writing jobs?

Freelancing websites like www.CareerBuilder.com, www.Monster.com, www.Craigslist.org, and www.Indeed.com are great places to start. Sites like these usually get at least a few new ads for grant writers each day.

You should also consider getting business cards and brochures to advertise your grant writing services. Printed materials convey a degree of professionalism that will definitely show non-profits that you're the writer for the job. Send a snazzy promotional package to the non-profits in your area to let them know you're available if they need you.

How do I land a freelance grant writing job?

Let's say you get an email as a result of one of the packages you sent to a non-profit organization. They write:

We received your brochure in the mail. Good timing – our church wants to start an outreach program for teens. We've been saving but still need a lot. Do you think you could help us find someone to help with funding?

First, how do you feel about this cause? If you think it's a total waste of time, do yourself and the church a favor and decline the project.

If you like the cause, do your utmost to give them confidence in your abilities and your enthusiasm. You might reply:

Wow, what a great idea! I think your program will make a real difference. It's great that you've been saving – funders like to know that the non-profit isn't just looking for handouts. I can write you a persuasive grant proposal that will get the attention of grantors and bring you one step closer to realizing this vision.

Again, passion is key. Show the non-profit you're devoted to their dream, and they'll be more likely to hire you.

Learn About Freelance Ghostwriting Jobs

The term "ghostwriting" refers to writing for someone that you don't receive credit for. Famous people, for example, seldom write their own autobiographies. Instead, they hire a ghostwriter to tell their story for them.

Why would a freelance ghostwriter agree to forfeit credit for his or her work? Simple: money. Clients usually pay ghostwriters far more than a "normal" writer's fee of \$20-\$50 an hour. Small books (150 pages or less) usually cost a client at least \$25,000. Fees go up from there depending on the length and type of book, as well as the amount of research required by the ghostwriter.

The fees are high because you can't slap your byline on the work and you forfeit all rights to royalties that your book generates. The exceptions are if the client agrees to put your name in print on the cover, name you as a co-author, or offer you part of the royalties. In those cases, you would often give a hefty discount depending on the return you expected.

What types of books can I ghostwrite?

Many industries seek the skills of freelance ghostwriters. Fiction and children's writing are common – people often have (or think they have) an amazing storyline, but lack the writing ability to sell it.

Freelance ghostwriters often pen non-fiction books, such as autobiographies and instructional, business, and self-help books. Sometimes these ghostwriters are experts in the subject matter, sometimes they are not. You may have to do a lot of research, or none at all.

You can also ghostwrite for smaller projects, like articles and web content. These don't usually pay more than normal writing but they're good resume builders.

Where can I find freelance ghostwriting gigs?

Set up a website to promote your freelance ghostwriting services. Because ghostwriting is expensive, it's important to buyers that you are truly a ghostwriting professional. Presenting yourself with a polished website is a great way to emphasize your credibility.

It is more than possible to find freelance ghostwriting jobs on freelancing websites, but buyers there are usually less knowledgeable and therefore less willing to pay good money. It is common to see ads for a 250-page book that needs writing with a budget of \$500 or less. It doesn't hurt to keep your eye out for a gem though – it does happen occasionally.

What skills do I need to be a freelance ghostwriter?

If you have experience, you're off to a great start. If you lack experience, thumb through your own files to see if you can use some of that as writing examples, or write some from scratch. You don't have to ghostwrite it to prove your writing skills. If you have a particular client in mind, do your best to match your writing style and samples to the type of writing you think your client is looking for.

Remember that any samples you send can't be ghostwritten work. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement, you can't ever disclose that you're the author behind ghostwritten work. In these cases, feel free to describe the book you ghostwrote and how well it's doing.

How should I respond to a ghostwriting ad?

If you find a promising ad (or if someone contacts you), respond professionally using perfect grammar and polite language. For practice, try responding to this sample ad:

I'm looking for someone to write a book about choosing the right family pet. I have an outline and some research but a little more will be required. The book should only be about 100 pages. I will own all rights afterwards. Serious writers only.

What should you say to this person? Well, it's good to start off expressing an interest in their subject matter. Ghostwriting projects are usually dear to buyers' hearts, so if you start by saying you're passionate about pets, you'll catch his eye right away.

Next, you'll want to assure him that you can handle the task. If you don't have enough experience to convince him, suggest having him send one chapter outline and writing a

sample for him for free. Yes, it's a bit of unpaid work for you, but it will mean thousands of dollars if you get the job.

Finally, quote a fee. The book is short and research appears to be minimal. If you're experienced, quote \$25,000. If you're not, quote around \$15,000. It's far less than an experienced ghostwriter would make, but you have to start somewhere. Good luck!

Learn about Freelance Blogging Jobs

Blogging is a fast-growing field that offers plenty of freelance opportunities. However, beware of what type of blogging you do and how much the client is paying you. Many new freelance bloggers find themselves putting in full-time hours for part-time pay.

Even if you're just starting out, don't accept less than \$7-\$10 per post. Just because you haven't blogged before doesn't mean you lack valuable, sought-after skills.

If you do have experience, or if you're blogging for a financially-stable company, feel free to charge more. Top bloggers can earn \$30-\$50 per post and sometimes a share in the company's profits.

What exactly do bloggers do?

On the surface, it's just article writing. The purposes behind blogging are much more elaborate. Companies use blogs with excellent headlines/keywords to drive traffic to their websites. More web traffic means:

1. More customers to buy their products or services.
2. More people to click on their advertising.

It may seem basic, but these two goals mean you need to create posts that aim and appeal to your clients' target markets. The best bloggers are writers who can write newsworthy content that generates a loyal readership and seamlessly (and sneakily!) promotes the company in question.

Who offers freelance blogging jobs?

A few years ago it was difficult to find people to pay you to blog. These days you can find dozens of new ads for bloggers posted each day. Realtors, auto mechanics, health food stores, doctors, door-to-door salesmen... sometimes it can seem like everyone wants a

blog of their own.

Freelance blogging jobs are plentiful, no matter the time of year. Check out WritingBids.com, Online-Writing-Jobs.com, Elance.com, Guru.com, and IFreelance.com (or just search for "freelance blogging jobs") to find thousands of blogging jobs available to you.

The bad news is that you'll have to sift through the blogging jobs to find quality jobs. Don't accept jobs that pay \$1 per post. Don't accept jobs that expect you to write 10 blogs every day, either -- somehow these people want to pay you next to nothing because of the volume of work (why would you get paid less to do more?). They also comment in their ad that they only want "serious, professional writers." Bidding on blogging jobs like these only sends the message that you are neither serious nor professional because if you were, there's no way you'd be doing a job like that.

Do I need experience to be a freelance blogger?

If you want clients to pay you as a legitimate blogger, then yes, you need experience. Luckily, it's not hard to get. You can rack up a few of the lower-paying jobs quickly or consider starting your own blog.

If you do start your own blog, make it full of posts that would impress a prospective client (i.e. no posts for your friends about how killer that last party was). If you post boring content with grammar mistakes, no one will want to hire you. Do your best to create content that drives traffic to your site; this way, you can show clients how good you are at writing what people want to read.

What's the best way to respond to an ad?

Let's say you come across an ad that says this:

I am a successful travel agent looking for a blog writer. I need someone with experience to write interesting posts that pertain to my business -- you can choose specific topics yourself. I need one post a day.

Online Writing Jobs for Freelance Writers

published by www.FreelanceWriting.com

To craft the best response possible, follow these 4 steps:

- 1.** Briefly introduce yourself as experienced and interested.
- 2.** Explain how your posts will drive traffic to their site.
- 3.** Suggest a couple of topics to show you're in sync with the client.
- 4.** Include links to your best blog posts.

Using the ad above as an example, you'd want to:

- 1.** Introduce yourself and express interest in the project and the travel industry in general.
- 2.** Say something like: "I will tailor my posts with specific keywords to make you more visible to potential customers."
- 3.** Suggest topics such as "What to pack for Alaska" or "3 Unique Things To Do In Barbados."
- 4.** Include links to your best existing posts, especially any posts related to travel.

You'll have your first (well-paying) client before you know it. Happy blogging!

Learn about Freelance Food Writing

If you love food and you can write with a lot of creative flair, you could look forward to a career in freelance food writing.

Technically, freelance food writing means tasting food and then describing it. Practically, it's a much more involved process. Food critics often absorb the entire dining experience of the restaurant they're in. How does the atmosphere contribute to the quality of the food? What was the service like? What did the food taste like?

The latter can be a fun question to answer because it's your opportunity to let your creativity shine through. Don't shy away from elaborate adjectives and metaphors. Think along the lines of: "The arugula and baby spinach medley, coupled with bursts of cilantro and cranberry, was bliss to the palate."

Who offers freelance food writing jobs?

Food writing is one of the more prolific freelancing jobs. Almost every major newspaper in the country has a food section. You can write for many magazines, depending on your food or beverage preference. An excellent source to find magazines seeking food articles is FreelanceWriting.com's [Writer's Guidelines Database](#).

As mentioned earlier, people looking for freelance food writers may really be looking for restaurant reviewers. Be prepared to do either one or both, depending on your editor. Remember that a whole restaurant review can be a little more in-depth than simply writing about the food, so make sure to pay attention to everything that happens from the moment you walk through those restaurant doors.

Where can I find freelance food writing jobs?

If you've done a couple of food reviews, submit them to food magazines and the food section editors of newspapers, along with a query letter. Your query letter should include a brief, exciting plug for the article you'd like to write, along with several good reasons why you should be the freelance writer to do it.

Another idea is to look for restaurants that are opening in your area and approach the owners directly. Let them know you're a freelance food writer who would like to help them get their new restaurant in the paper. It'll give you an excellent opportunity to write their review first and get it published. You might even get a free meal!

Occasionally, you'll find ads seeking freelance food writers on the Internet. Approach with caution; usually these jobs pay very little.

What skills do I need to be a freelance food writer?

Besides creativity and a keen eye, it's helpful if you have a passion for food. That may sound obvious, but it's worth mentioning – the more you love what you're writing about, the more likely you'll be able to convey that passion to your readers.

In food writing, that passion is critical because it's the only way to engage your readers. If you're just saying, "*My pasta primavera was exceptional and so was the service,*" you're not going to hold your readers' attention for long. Instead, you need to say something like, "*The just-picked pan-seared veggies over homemade al dente linguini made the meal feel light and refreshing, even for pasta.*"

Besides passion, you need education. Read food magazines, check out the food section in the newspaper, eat out a lot, attend wine and cheeses, and learn the food trends that are happening in cities like New York and Los Angeles. The more you know, the better you'll write.

How do I respond to an ad?

If you come across an ad for a food writer, say in a wine-lovers' magazine, you'll need to respond in a way that entices editors to accept your articles. How would you respond to the ad below?

Calling all food lovers! Wine & Vine is looking for articles about pairing wines and foods. Please submit 500-600-word articles with a short bio of yourself before January.

It looks like the magazine is looking for articles with a food emphasis, which is great if you don't know a lot about wine pairing. Do a bit of Internet research on which cheeses and meats go with which wines. Then describe those foods ("A melt-in-your-mouth Kobe steak," "Roquefort straight from the Vallée du Loire," you get the idea) with panache.

It's all about engaging your readers, so that through your words, readers can share in the moment of relishing each morsel. That's what being a good freelance food writer is all about!

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