

Getting Started in Freelance Writing

Freelance Writing is one of the hottest, and trickiest, opportunities for freelancing today. On the one hand, everyone needs content. Traditional magazines, e-zines, newsletters, websites, blogs, brochures, and the list goes on and on. A cursory search around the internet will have your head buzzing with opportunities. The downside is that there is a lot of competition from around the world; some places where earning a buck or two for an hour's work is considered great wages. So how do you get started and find the right kind of jobs. Well that's not an easy answer but below are a couple steps you can start with:

1. **Build your Portfolio** – having samples of your writing readily available is important before applying for your first job. If you don't currently have any published work, consider volunteering to write copy or articles for a non-profit organization. Offer to write an article or post for your favorite online newsletter or blog. Submit your articles to open article submission sites like [Helium](#) or [Associated Content](#). Helium uses a peer-rating system that might get you some initial feedback on your writing to help you improve.
2. **Determine your Rates** – Surf around the web and try to determine what other freelance writers with your skills and geographic location are charging. Also, see our Bandycoop Hot Minute Tutorial on [Things to Consider when Determining Your Rates](#). Post a comment on a freelance writing blog site asking how others determined their rates.
3. **Hang Out your Shingle** – The easiest way to open for business is online with your own website. See our [guide to getting a website](#) for tips and direction.
4. **Sign up for Freelance Job Sites** – Check around some of the [freelance job boards](#) we have listed here and join the ones that seem to have projects you are interested in.
5. **Post your Resume, Bio, or Ad** – Prepare a simple, concise, resume or bio to post on the sites you have chosen.

According to Lisa Nicols of [Freelancewriting.Suite101.com](#), it is important to keep an online resume or ad simple.

Below is an example of a successful ad used on online job boards to get freelance writing jobs:

“Freelance writer experienced in writing feature articles, press releases, executive communications, newsletters, collateral materials, direct mail and Web pages, articles and blogs, with a strong focus on Search Engine Optimization (SEO) techniques in a way that's readable, scannable and optimized.

- Industries and clients include SEO agencies, newspaper, magazine, insurance, retail, financial services, B2B advertising agency and industrial and medical supplies.
- More than seven years in a marketing role, including five years in a management position and

twelve years overall business experience.

- Regularly uses a digital camera, content management tools and interview skills for publication.
- Client relationship manager for internal and external business partners.
- Operations and project manager with customer retention and loyalty experience.
- Clients, references and links to writing samples are available upon request.

I try to keep my client roster small, so I can easily stay on top of deadlines. I have capacity to take on one additional client for freelance work right now, but that can quickly change! I work from home so your need for a home-based freelance writer is appreciated.”

Thanks for your consideration and I hope to speak with you soon.”

Follow these steps and you'll be well on your way to a new career in freelance writing.