

Writing Articles for Magazines Worksheet

This is the worksheet for November's seminar, which you can find in audio and transcript forms at: www.writershuddle.com/seminars/nov2012

Key Points from the Seminar

Magazine writing is a great way to start making some money from writing – though that's far from the only reason to go into it. Other benefits are seeing your name in print, and building a platform that can lead to other projects.

Breaking into Article Writing

Start with your own experience, and look for trade and specialist magazines to write for. Think about your hobbies, the jobs you've done, or the interests and experience that you have.

Most magazines that accept freelance proposals will have guidelines on their website. You can also look in the front of the magazine (often there's a small "Contributing Writers" section).

You can also look online, through websites like:

- fundsforwriters.com
- writersweekly.com

Writing a Great Pitch

The four key elements of your pitch are:

- **The lead paragraph** – where you grab the editor's attention.
- **Your topic explanation** – where you flesh out your idea.
- **"Why should I care?"** – where you explain why this article is important to the magazine's readers

- **Your bio** – where you highlight your relevant qualifications and experience

Pay attention to the details to create a professional pitch – e.g. make sure you get the editor's name right.

Planning, Researching and Writing

It's a good idea to copy your pitch into your article document, so you're always writing from the original pitch. Your article can take shape as you conduct interviews and think through what you want to write.

It's up to you how much planning you do (you'll have already done quite a bit just to create the pitch). It's important to edit carefully, though.

You have more flexibility about style / structure than you would online, as magazine readers won't mind long paragraphs and sentences.

Exercises

List three magazines that you want to write for. They might be ones you already read, perhaps related to a particular hobby, interest, or area of expertise. (If you're stuck, ask us in the forums for ideas!)

Create a query schedule: decide how many queries you'll send out each week and stick to it! They won't all be accepted – but the more you send out, the more article commissions you'll get.

Links / Resources

[Steff Metal](#) – this is where I first came across Steff, on her heavy metal site.

[Gothic Wedding Planner](#) – Steff is a licensed wedding celebrant in NZ.

[Grymm & Epic](#) – this is where you'll find details of Steff's writing-related services and products, including the [Grymm & Epic Guide to Blogging](#) and the [Small & Awesome Guide to Freelance Writing](#).