

How to Start a Successful Freelance Writing Career When You Have NO Experience

So you've made the decision. You're going to step into a freelance writing career but you realize you have NO experience! How are you going to get clients who want experienced writers when you don't have any yourself?

If this is you, then this video is a must watch. You can still get dozens of clients even if you are just starting out and lack experience. But, before you go out there and get started, let's take a look at what you will need to succeed. The following items will help you "appear" as a successful freelance writer as you work your way towards actually becoming one.

1. Website or Portfolio

Building your online presence is essential for branding and marketing yourself.

It's imperative that you not only have a website or portfolio, but that it is professional, fresh and effective. If you don't have an inviting website, it won't even matter how good you are as a writer. That first impression of you as a professional writer is initially determined by your website.

If you don't have any experience creating websites, you can search for online templates. Search Google for "writing portfolio" and you will find a lot of information on how to set up a website or portfolio even if you don't have any experience setting up a website.

We also offer a free writer's theme inside the Freelance Inner Circle that is available to you. All of my members get access to this theme, which allows you to customize your website easily. I also include step-by-step instructions.

2. Samples of Your Writing

So, you have a website or portfolio, but an empty portfolio will do you no good. Take some time and write several samples to post on your website. One of the reasons prospective clients are visiting your website is to view your writing. This is where you can shine!

If you are leaning toward a specific specialty, than write samples on that specialty. If not, include samples on a variety of topics to round out your

skills. Also, identify each article or piece by subject or category so that the client can pick and choose those they want to read.

If you don't have a specialty yet, no worries! As you progress in your career, you may discover you are a specialist in more than one area and you didn't even know it! That's what happened to me with internet marketing. Or, you may find you like writing about one topic in particular, so you can make that your specialty. But for now, create samples about familiar topics that come easy for you to write so you're not spending too much time on this.

How many samples do you need? The more samples the better! You will never know which potential clients might come on your site and say, "Yes!" She wrote an article on the topic I need! But to give you an idea, when you are starting out, 5-10 samples will do.

You can also post samples in different types of writing as well. For example, give writing samples for blogs, web copy, articles, press releases and any other kind of writing you are going to be offering as a service, if applicable.

Don't rush this! These writing samples are your calling card. Also, make sure you add a link in your navigation bar at the top of your website. This will allow prospective clients to find or easily access your samples.

3. Content Mills

Content mills are a great place to begin and gain experience as a paid freelance writer. These broker websites hire you to do work for the clients who contact them. They act as middlemen so you never actually interface with the client directly. One of the good things about content mills is they will help you improve your writing skills because editors will critique your work before you get paid. Sometimes it can be uncomfortable, because who likes getting critiqued? But, in the end, it is all good because it will help raise the standard of your writing.

Be warned though! Although content mills will allow starting freelance writers to gain experience and make some quick money, they are not worth using throughout your career. They don't pay writers what they deserve. So once you've gathered all of the knowledge to move to the next level and you feel you are ready to move on to working with direct clients, go for it!

4. Set Goals

I have found in my experience that a lack of setting goals and sticking to them are one of the main reasons that writers aren't successful in this industry.

If you're used to having to "punch in" at work every day and having people over you telling you when to work and when to leave, living the life of a freelance writer can present a bit of a challenge. That's why setting goals is imperative.

There are five basic steps to goal setting and achieving success:

- A. Set a date you will begin working at freelance writing
- B. Decide what you want to achieve in 1 month, 6 months and one year and write your goals down
- C. Make your goals attainable and not too lofty
- D. Create deadlines
- E. Make new weekly goals every Monday morning to start your week
- F. Break down your weekly goals into daily tasks

Once you start creating "to do" goal-setting lists, you will find yourself following them naturally. As you achieve each goal, cross it off your list and reward yourself, even if it's taking a walk to your favorite coffee place to relax for an hour.

5. Sound Confident Even if You Aren't

I saved my #1 point to last because it is the most important. If you don't think you can be an asset to a client, they won't believe you can either. Even if you are starting out, you have life experience to offer and you can draw upon that mentally to feel more confident.

Never mention to a prospective client that you have no experience, or "you just want to be given a chance" or anything similar that has that "lack of confidence" energy around it. Sound confident and direct even if you don't feel it.

You don't need confidence to start a freelance writing career. You just need courage and be able to "sound" like you are confident. Believe me, the confidence comes as you act like what you want to be. When I started out as a writer, I not only lacked confidence, I was downright terrified! But, I took a step forward in spite of those fears and confidence built along my journey.

I hope you learned something today and I was able to help you feel a little more courageous about taking that step and starting your career as a freelance writer. There is no better time than now to start your career as millions of businesses need online content to tell their message and interact with their customers. These five points can ensure that you don't only appear to be a successful, seasoned freelance writer, but that you will evolve into one and get started on the right foot.

Also, don't be afraid of getting involved in forums and asking questions of professionals that have been in the freelance writing business for years. It will help you stay motivated and kick any fears you might have, to the curb.

We all started exactly where you are now and we've all felt the same apprehension. Day after day, you will gain more knowledge, confidence and experience and you will earn more money.

The only way you won't succeed is if you don't try. I'm living proof that it works. I went from nothing to six figures a year. So can you!