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Article Writing Errors

By Richard Lowe

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Having trouble writing articles? Here's my list of some common mistakes that writers make.

Not being a writer – This is the number one mistake that writers make. If you are a writer, then you had better be writing. You cannot publish what you don't write. Don't talk about what you are going to write, don't discuss your articles before writing them, and don't spend endless hours trying to find people to purchase your articles. Just write: query letters and articles. Write them fast and furious. That's what a writer does.

Not writing constantly – If you call yourself a writer, then you had better be writing. In fact, you should be writing constantly, every single day if you can. What do you write? Write an article on something, anything, that you feel you can write about.

Giving into writer's block – You can defeat writer's block. You are a writer, so write. Can't write? Just start writing and don't worry about what comes out.

Re-writing too many times – Some writers like to edit and rewrite an article over and over again. Personally, I write a pretty good article the first time and one quick edit usually finishes it up. Some people need a few more edits. But don't over edit. Your job is to communicate words and concepts on paper, not edit them to death.

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Not editing enough – No matter how good your first drafts are, be sure and look it over at least once for spelling mistakes and grammar errors.

Plagiarizing – It's perfectly okay to get ideas from other articles, books, movies, and even television shows. It's not okay to steal another writer's work, and it's also not acceptable to paraphrase an article. You can quote from other sources (this is called "fair use") but you cannot make other's work your own. Talking about an article before writing it – I know of very few people who can talk about an article concept with another person and then successfully write that

article later. Writing is communicating on paper (or on a computer), not talking about what you want to write.

Asking people if your writing is "okay" – If you are taking a class in writing, then this is a fine thing to do. Otherwise, I wouldn't bother trying to get criticism from anyone except a professional editor. Before I learned this lesson, I stopped writing more articles than I can count simply because of others tearing my work apart. Now, I don't ask for or accept criticism on my works, unless it's from a professional editor to whom I am attempting to sell one of my articles. It is acceptable to get criticism from one's agent, as that is one of the tasks that an agent is paid to do.

Worrying about what to write about – Don't worry about what to write: just write. That's what writers do, they write. There is no need to waste time to find a subject or something that will sell or anything else. Just pick something you know well and write about it.

Not using query letters – If you really want to get your articles published, you need to be sending out dozens of query letters every single day. How is this done? Simply pick up your most recent copy of *Writer's Market*, pick a magazine or other publisher, think of an idea they might be interested in, and write a letter pitching that idea to the magazine (or other) editor. Be sure to follow the guidelines given by the magazine (you can get this from *Writer's Market*, on the web or by sending a request to the publication). You may only get one bite out of a hundred, but if you don't ask you won't get any at all.

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Why use query letters instead of writing articles? Writing an article can take a significant amount of time. It's wise to find an editor who is at least marginally interested before taking the time to write a full article. Query letters must be written fast and often to be effective.

Writing in someone else's style – You are a unique individual with your own talents, faults, goals, objectives, abilities and characteristics. You also have your own unique writing style. Be yourself when you write; if you are someone else (and you write like someone else) you will never make the big times. This does not mean you shouldn't experiment with different writing styles; it means you should make each style your own as you write.

Asking other writers for advice – This is fine if you are taking a class taught by a writer. In most other instances,

unless the writer is a good friend, you have to understand that other writers are competitors. Unless they are very ethical, it's very likely they may be trying to discourage you or move you away from their own preferred market.

Keeping poor records – Create a record-keeping system and stick to it. There is little more embarrassing (or time-wasting) than sending out the same article twice (or more) to the same editor who rejected it the first time.

Not treating writing as a business – Keep good records of expenses and income, and treat it all as important and vital. You have to pay taxes and you may need to account for any money. Also, expenses (and even your home office) are often write-offs on taxes.

Not checking facts and doing proper research – Getting a fact wrong now and again won't kill you, but it does effect your credibility. Get major facts wrong too often, and you may find that you cannot sell anything anymore.

Not handling copyright infringement – If someone steals your work without compensation, handle it fast and efficiently. Talk nicely, then not so nicely, then call in the lawyers. You own the copyright, so enforce it.

Richard Lowe Jr. is the webmaster of Internet Tips And Secrets at <http://www.internet-tips.net> – Visit

our website any time to read over 1,000 complete FREE articles about how to improve your internet profits, enjoyment and knowledge.

Checklist for Writing Articles That Get Read

By Abdallah Khamis Abdallah

When writing articles for publication, it is important that you bear certain matters in mind. If you want to write a good article that stands a good chance of publication you need to take the following into consideration before, when you are in the process and after completion:

Have you formed a full idea on what you want to write about? Which subject? Which topic?

Do you know where or how to find facts or material for your article?

Have you collected sufficient raw facts/data for your article?

Have you considered the article's audience / market? Will it interest or captivate your readers?

Does your article have a main idea and secondary ideas?

Have you written enough to give readers quality and credible information?

Does the article offer any new, refreshing and useful advice or ideas?

Are paragraphs short, well arranged and flow smoothly from each other? Are sentences short and well constructed? Is punctuation all right and there are no grammatical mistakes?

Is your article descriptive? Is it sensational, thought provoking, emotive or inspiring? Does it evoke happy memories, sadness or inspire readers to action?

Have you revised the article to flush out irrelevant ideas, strengthen your points and checked it for any errors?

Does your article content infringe any law? Copyright? Libel?

Has the article undergone rewriting through several drafts to polish it?

Does the article make sense?

Abdallah Khamis Abdallah is a freelance copywriter and ghost writer. To learn more about how you and your business can benefit from our viral and credibility marketing solutions and how your business can benefit from infinite publicity visit his website at:

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Checklist for Writing Articles That Get Read

8 Tips to Get Publishers to Notice You

Don't Rely on your Spellchecker – or – The Importance of Good Proof Reading

Don't Upgrade Operating Systems!

10 Profitable Tips For Article Writers

DOS Made Easy

Article Cash

Article Submitter

HIV/Aids Healed by the Power of God

Name Branding Syndicator



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