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**Becoming a Writer**

**By robparnell**

**Becoming a Writer**

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The urge to write fiction seems God given for some, a learned skill for others.

One thing is certain - it requires practice and a particular mindset. But, if you're a beginner, where do you start?

The following 10 tips will help kick-start your writing habit, whether you're a complete novice, or perhaps a pro who has lost their way!

1. Step Away From the Car, Sir.

Slightly detach yourself from your surroundings. Stop participating and begin observing. In social situations, watch people, see how they act and - more importantly - interact.

Don't pass judgment. Take it all in - and draw on it later when you write.

2. Look Harder, Homer

Stop and look around you. Consciously notice the buildings, what's underfoot, overhead, and what's right in front of you.

At home, look at something you take for granted. An iron, for instance. Find yours and study it.

3. Write Thinking Will Be Rewarded.

A simple technique. Your mother is making tea and you are chatting to her. Take a mental step back and describe the scene.

## Becoming a Writer

Similarly, when you're outside, describe your environment as though you were writing it down.

### 4. What Reasons Do You Need?

Don't wait for inspiration - just write!

Force yourself to write anything at all. A shopping list. An overheard conversation. Describe your bedroom.

It doesn't matter how personal it is, or how trivial, just get it down!

### 5. Wakey Wakey!

Set your alarm clock for an hour earlier than normal.

When the alarm goes off, get up. Don't dress, bathe or eat. Don't even make coffee. Just stagger to your writing space and write the first thing that comes into your head for five minutes.

### 6. Oh God - Not That!

Think of the most awful and embarrassing thing you've ever done – the more cringe-worthy the better. Now write about it. All of it, in all its gory, horrible detail.

Then hide it away for a year or so before you read it again!

### 7. Like Your Style, Baby.

Don't limit yourself. Write poems, songs, dialogue, fact, fiction, even practice writing advertising copy or horoscopes.

Your expertise improves in all areas - an improvement in one area can reap benefits in another.

### 8. The Sincerest Flattery

Take out a classic book from your bookcase. Copy out a paragraph. Think about the words as you write them. Don't get intimidated!

### 9. Wanna See My Invention?

When you're not writing, string together stories in your mind. Think of plots, characters, settings, dénouements.

Ask yourself what you should do next to improve your writing.

Develop this technique into a habit.

## 10. It's A Goal!

When you start writing regularly, set yourself small goals. Anything from 200 words a day, or just a commitment to writing in your diary.

Later extend to finishing a short story, or an article or a poem. Perhaps one in a week.

The trick is to set goals you can achieve easily.

That way you'll get the writing habit – and you won't forget to enjoy it!

robarnell is founder of the Easy Way to Write, a young Internet company committed to giving excellent writing resources to novice and seasoned writers. For free writing lessons and much more visit:

## **What Publications Should Look for in a Technology Writer**

**By David Geer**

### **What Publications Should Look for in a Technology Writer by David Geer**

What to look for in a technology writer.

A good technology writer has a good portfolio. The writer you want will have samples that parallel the content you're looking for. A good portfolio sample can be found at <http://www.GeerCom.com/samples.html>.

A good technology writer is a good investigator. A professional technology writer takes time to get to know you, your publication, and your goals. What do you really want to get out of this project? A great writer will ask because a disciplined professional needs to know.

A good technology writer is a team player. Professional writing requires top-notch communications skills on all levels, not just in the text of your articles and features. The writer you want should be able to carry on a dialogue with you and your team to discover your needs, and to make sure that they are met.

A good technology writer is prepared to work with you and your team until you're satisfied. Consultations, revisions and changes should be built into the fee. These are part of the process and should be foreseen by the writer.

Finally, a good technology writer instills confidence. After providing the necessary requirements and information, you should feel comfortable letting the writer drive where the story is concerned. You should be able to rely on their responsiveness to your queries. You should be assured that they will deliver all that you expect and more.

## Becoming a Writer

About the Author David Geer is chief technology writer, technical journalist and owner of Geer Communications, which helps print and electronic publications meet their content needs. E-mail him at David@GeerCom.com, call him at 440-964-9832, or check out the Geer Communications Website at www.GeerCom.com.

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