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Improve Your Writing

By Nicole Murphy

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None of us will be brilliant writers the moment we first pick up a pen or hit the keyboard. It's a fact. We're beginners and while some will be beginning with better skills and understandings than others, none of us will be the best writer we can be.

Improving your writing is one of the great parts of being a writer. There's no greater feeling than picking up a story you wrote a year ago or even six months ago, picking up all the mistakes you made and realising you don't do it any more. I bet you can go up to any well known writer and ask them what they think of the first thing they published and the response will be something along the lines of: "I'm glad it was published because it got me started but quite frankly, I read it now and I shudder."

It can seem overwhelming, when you consider how good you want to be and how far you need to go to achieve it. A famous quote is that you need to write a million words before you can be a good writer. The follow ideas will help you make steady progress in your writing and achieve that aim of being the best you can be.

1). Practise, practise, practise. Yes, you've heard it all before. Write every day. Or at least regularly. And it's true. Writing is a skill and like all skills, will only improve if you practise. If you're only going to write once a month or will write ferociously for several weeks and then not again for six months, you can't expect your writing muscles to develop. Even if it's only one hundred words a day (and that will only take ten minutes or so), write as often and as regularly as you can.

2). Pick one weakness and work on it. Don't try to improve every aspect of your writing all at once. The first thing I decided to work on was Point Of View (POV). I got books, asked questions in online forums and wrote a lot, focussing my attention simply on POV. I not only got a handle on POV but found the style of POV that best suited my writing.

Once you're feeling confident about that area, pick another one and focus on it. Sometimes, you might only need a week or two to get a handle on an idea. Sometimes, it might take you months before you feel really comfortable with the way your writing looks and sounds.

Improve Your Writing

The great thing is, even though you are focussing on one subject, the amount of writing you do will see small improvements in other areas as well. So you almost kill two birds with one stone.

3). Experiment with your writing. Each month, set yourself a challenge to do something different. Maybe it's to write a story in first person when you normally use third. Maybe it's to try writing your story as a transcription of a tape rather than as an observer of the story. Maybe it's to try and write one hundred words as one sentence.

You will end up with interesting ideas, new areas that you need to look at and perhaps will discover a skill that you didn't know you possessed.

4). Write short shorts. Nothing will test your writing more than trying to tell an entire story, with good characterisation and plot, in five hundred words. You learn the value of words, the importance of right word at the right time. Even if you think you can't possibly do it, try it. It gets you thinking about your writing in a way that writing a novel doesn't, and you can't help but see what your strengths and weaknesses are.

5). Get involved in critiquing other people's work and having your own critiqued. It is amazing how you can pick up errors in other people's work that you cannot see in your own. You'll learn a great deal from the process. And for your own work, a good idea is to ask for questions about a particular thing. For example: I'm not sure how clear the description is in this piece. Can you clearly see what is going on? Get your critiquers to focus on the skill you are focussing on and then you can receive their comments without being concerned that they are attacking you or your baby.

Take you time to improve your writing. Allow yourself to make mistakes and learn from them. No one's going to come back at you in ten years and say "How can she be on the New York Times Bestsellers List? Look at the crap she wrote in 2003." Except maybe you.

Nicole R Murphy is a writer and copy editor. She can help you develop your writing skills by copyediting and critiquing your work. Try a free trial at www.yourbestwork.com

Writing Articles to Improve Link Popularity

By Bob Hampton

There are many different ways to improve link popularity for your Website. One of the most effective ways to improve your site's link popularity is by writing articles for publication on other related Web sites and in other related newsletters or Ezines.

In this article, I will be sharing 10 techniques I use when I am writing articles to improve link popularity for one of my Websites.

Let's use this article as an example. I have two goals in mind as I start writing this article, a primary goal and a secondary goal.

Improve Your Writing

My primary goal is to inform you, my reader, about how to improve link popularity for your Website.

My secondary goal is to improve link popularity for one of my own Websites.

If, after having read this article, you can say to yourself that this article was informative and it gave you one or more ideas about how to improve link popularity for your own Website, then I will have achieved my primary goal.

If, after having written this article, I can say to myself that this article was written well enough, and was informative enough, to persuade Webmasters and newsletter or Ezine publishers to reprint this article on their Website or in their newsletter or Ezine, then I will have achieved my secondary goal.

If I do achieve my primary goal, my secondary goal will be achieved as well – you will have been informed and the other publishers will realize that and will reprint this article in order to inform their readers as well.

Now, on to achieving my primary goal, informing you...

How to Improve Link Popularity by Writing Articles

1. Before writing your article, have definite goals in mind. Ask yourself what you want to accomplish by writing this article.

Since you are now reading an article about how to improve link popularity for your Website, that should be one of your goals. I'll leave you to decide what other goals you want to achieve by writing your article.

2. Have well thought out ideas for the beginning, middle and ending of your article.

For this article, the purpose of my beginning was to inform you about an effective way to improve link popularity for your Website.

The purpose of the middle of this article is to inform you about how you can use this effective way to improve link popularity for your own Website.

The purpose of the ending of this article will be to provide you with a way to learn more on this topic and, to achieve my secondary goal, to improve link popularity for my own Website.

3. Include your most important keyword in the title of your article. You will notice that I have used the keyword phrase "improve link popularity" in the title of this article. This will improve the odds that your article will become indexed and listed by search engines.

4. Use your important keyword throughout the content of your article. Again, you will notice that I have used the keyword phrase "improve link popularity" several times throughout the content of this article. Again, this is for the purpose of getting this article indexed and listed by search engines.

Improve Your Writing

5. Write your article as if you were speaking directly to your best friend about a topic that both you and she are passionate about. Don't try to impress her with your knowledge of the topic. Simply provide her with your thoughts on the subject, using easy-to-understand words and phrases.
6. After you have written your article, leave it alone for a day or two before coming back to it. Using a fresh pair of eyes, read your article to see if the content flows in a logical, easy-to-understand manner. Then proofread your article for typos. Make any necessary corrections.
7. After you have written and proofread your article, publish it on your own Website. Include a resource box at the bottom of your Web page that informs Webmasters and newsletter or Ezine publishers that they are free to reprint your article. This is, after all, the focus of this article on how to improve link popularity for your Website.
8. If you publish a newsletter or Ezine, also publish your article in it as well. If it is a lengthy article, publish part of the article in your newsletter or Ezine and provide a link to the complete article that is published on your Website.
9. Include a resource box at the end of your article that provides a little information about you and an invitation for your readers to visit your Website. Some readers will go to your Website, read your other articles, and choose to reprint some of those as well. This is a definite bonus when you are writing an article to improve link popularity for your Website.
10. Submit your article to Websites that archive articles that are available for reprinting on other Websites and in other newsletters or Ezines. My favorite Website for archiving my articles and for obtaining articles written about how to improve link popularity is ArticleCity.com, located at

Other archives can be located by searching on "free articles for reprint" or

something similar.

Summary

It took me about two hours to write this article. When you are passionate about the topic you are writing about, the words just seem to flow from your brain to your article.

If you are passionate about the topic of your article, you will be able to write an informative article which will be reprinted by Webmasters and newsletter or Ezine publishers and that will help to improve

link popularity for your Website.

Bob Hampton

Bob designs and builds his own Websites. His most recent site is Link Popularity IQ (<http://www.lpiq.com/lpiq>). He invites you to test your knowledge of link popularity by taking his free Link Popularity IQ Test (

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Writing Articles to Improve Link Popularity

What Does It Mean To "Self Improve?"

What Are The Benefits Of Outsourcing Your Technical Writing To India?

"10 Ways Writing Articles Can Improve Your Business"

Business Writing Skills I: What Do You Want To Say?

Copywriting Crash Course

How To Improve Blood Circulation

Write Around The World FREE!

Ebook Authors Interviewed

Web Biz for Beginners



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