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The Habits of Highly Successful Writers

By Stephanie Cage

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Have you ever envied those hugely productive writers? You know the ones I mean. The article writers whose names crop up with boring regularity in all the trade magazines, and who still find time to keep their web sites up to date with masses of credentials and edit a couple of house journals. The short story writers and poets whose names crop up in all the competition shortlists and magazines - and they've probably published an e-book and are teaching half a dozen classes too. And worst of all, the 25-year-old novelists whose books take up half a shelf in your local bookstore!

If you're anything like me, once you've done burning up with envy, they prompt you to resolve to change your attitude, to write more and send more out. Of course, if you're anything like I was until recently, your resolution lasted until you got up the next morning... or if you were having a really good day, maybe until lunch.

The trouble is, you can resolve to change your behaviour all you like, but until you change the underlying attitudes that cause you to behave that way, it's going to be an uphill struggle.

Most writers who aren't writing and submitting as much as they'd like to give one of two reasons.

The first reason is 'I don't have time.'

There are times in your life when that will probably be true. If you're nursing sick kids, making a major job change or moving house, give yourself a break. There are other things to life besides writing, and when things calm down and you can give your full attention to the page again, the odds are your writing will improve for having some new experiences.

If you're not going through a major life change, then time is not much of an excuse. You have twenty-four hours a day, the same as the rest of us. If you're finding time for other leisure activities - TV, sport or socialising - then you have time to write. Successful writers find time to write. Rumour has it that best-selling author Carole Matthews produced her first book by tying herself to her desk when she got in from work and not undoing the knot until she'd reached her word-count for the day!

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On hearing stories like this, most writers move on to the second reason: 'I wish I could do that, but I just don't have that kind of motivation.' In its extreme form, this can also show up as beating yourself up for being apathetic, lazy, or procrastinating. Don't do it! Firstly, because it makes you feel lousy. Secondly, for most people, it has no useful effect at all. And thirdly, because it's not true. You wouldn't be here reading this if you weren't motivated to write, and be the most successful writer you can be.

Your job is to figure out what's getting in the way of doing that.

If you're anything like me, behind the worries about time and motivation, a big part of the obstacle is some form of that old chestnut, fear of failure.

'What if it's not good enough?' we worry, and tinker with the piece a bit longer instead of sending it out into the world to be judged. 'I'm not enough of an expert to tell people how to do things,' we say, and then fume when someone else with even less experience lands the prestigious 'Question and Answer' column.

For most of us, the difference between us and those hugely successful and productive writers is not ability. It's confidence. It's having the guts to pitch for a tricky, but rewarding job, knowing that you've always delivered before, and you'll find a way to do so this time. It's taking the plunge and sending your synopsis and sample chapters off to a handful of agents, and then, if those come back, to another dozen or so for good measure. It's being able to withstand any individual failure because you know it's not the end of everything, just an inevitable setback on the road to ultimate success.

This sort of confidence doesn't appear overnight, but there are some easy tricks you can use to move yourself along.

Don't worry about starting small - most successful writers do. Give yourself a goal that's just a little bit ahead of where you are now - perhaps a number of submissions per week or month, a competition to enter or a new market to pitch to. Reward yourself when you get there, and keep a record of your successes to cheer yourself up when things are going less well. And each time you reach a goal, pick a new one that's just a bit further along.

Just like everything else you do regularly, writing success soon becomes a habit, and before long people will be looking at you and wondering how you do it!

Stephanie Cage is a UK-based author of fiction and poetry, as well as several business reports. Read more of her work at www.stephaniecage.co.uk.

6 Tips For ... Creating Habits Of Highly Successful Webmasters

By Anthony Farrell

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The Habits of Highly Successful Writers

Picture this...

You've started, or are about to start an online business. Your aim is to eliminate your debt, create your wealth and have the lifestyle and freedom you've always dreamed of. You have high hopes and dreams of being able to do what you want, and whenever you want. Sound familiar? So, how is it going so far? Have YOU been successful? You must develop habits... Here are six habits of highly successful webmasters:

1. Plan Your Life:

Take the time to plan important events in your life. Also, plan your tasks and goals for the next day. This helps keep you organised.

2. Set Deadlines and Block Out Time for your Tasks and Goals:

Use your time well. You only have 24 hours in a day, so use it to work for you and not against you. Devote a certain amount of time to various tasks throughout the day.

3. Surround Yourself with Smart, Successful People:

You are a direct reflection of the people you surround yourself with, so surround yourself with smart, successful people. By doing this will challenge you and raise your standards.

4. Concentrate on your Circle of Influence, not on your Circle of Concern:

Everyone has a circle of influence, and a circle of concern. In other words, things that you have influence over and concerns that you have no control over.

5. Model Successful People or Successful Businesses:

This will help accelerate your success by avoiding the mistakes made by the people or businesses that failed. So, learn from other people's mistakes, as well as your own.

6. Take Action!

This has got to be the most difficult "habit" of all. If taking action were easy, you would already be wealthy, healthy, and wise. As I said earlier, we all have plans, but, we don't always take the action necessary to implement those plans. Therefore, our goals are never achieved.

YOUR INABILITY TO TAKE ACTION IS THE PROBLEM!

Chances are you are currently working for someone else at this time. When you are working for someone else, you are

not really in control. By working for someone else, you don't have the freedom to do what you want to do, when you want to do it. As an employee, you get paid hourly or a salary.... but if you stop working, you stop getting paid.

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What you really want is the ability to make money while you are sleeping, taking time off, or even on vacation for a month. The only way this is possible is if you own your own business. If you have a business, then develop these six habits of highly successful webmasters and you'll be well on your way to success.

Anthony Farrell will provide you with the full free report on... "The Six Habits of Highly Successful Webmasters!" Do you want to live the rest of your life talking about being successful and never achieving success, or will you start taking action? If you want to learn about The Six Habits of Highly Successful Webmasters, we recommend it: <http://the6habits.com/59127/index.htm>



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