

Write your Publishable Article Fast--With an Angle!

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By Judy Cullins

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You want your business to be noticed by thousands daily. Online ezine publishers and webmasters are constantly looking for new, original content. They want and need your articles. This is a promotion marriage made in heaven. But you will have a much better chance of being chosen if you write an article that solves a problem for your audience. Give each article an angle.

Let's assume they are business people like yourself who need a problem solved--to stop procrastinating, write a book, promote their business, develop a loving relationship.

What Format Suits You?

1. Write a how-to-article.

Information hungry people want this one! First, open with a hook--something that will entice your reader to keep reading. Then, write a short introduction on the background of the problem and the need for your solutions. Follow with solutions in a new paragraph. You can number these if you wish.

Don't worry about giving away the store. Readers will judge you by your concise style and content, and will be attracted to see what else you offer.

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Make a list of topics you know or that relate to your business. Take one at a time and write a short piece on it. You can write a short article under 500 words or a longer one if you desire.

For solutions to the problem, give information and resources that will assist your audience. Here's some sample article titles from my clients: How to Procrastinate to Your Heart's Desires; How to Create Employees Who Can Hardly Wait to Get to Work Each Day; Promote your Coaching and Speaking Business Through Free Articles.

2. Write tips.

This kind of article takes the shortest time to write and is also the easiest format. Always include an introduction with your thesis—the point you want to prove, or the problem you are about to solve.

Usually one or two sentences are enough. Include a one or two sentence conclusion in which you add one more punchy way to stimulate your reader to act. Remember to include your power-packed signature file below each article or tip.

To write a tip:

1. Start with a command such as " Do this."
2. Follow that by the consequence of not following the tip.Or, show a benefit of following the tip.
3. Show examples or resources to solve a problem and put the tip into action.

Write an article with 3, 5, 7 or 10 tips in it. It's best to give a complete tip as listed above rather than just list 29 tips.

Client examples: "Seven Mistakes People Make When they Create a Web Site" or "10 Ways to Organize your Online Office."

If you keep your numbers reasonable—say around ten, you can use the other tips in other articles. Sometimes you can offer a resource to your reader in your tip as an example of solving the problem.

4. Write a myth and solutions Article.

This kind of article is one of my favorite because myths abound in book publishing and promotion. These keep authors from expressing their brilliance. Emerging authors think that traditional publishes will actually promote them. How about this myth? "Bookstores are a Great Place to Sell Books" or "you need an agent or publisher to write and publish a well-respected book," or "you need the print media to publicize your products or service."

After the myth, the book coach then shares the real truth and what aspiring writers can do about it to succeed.

5. Write an interview.

Choose a credible expert or dynamic online personality to interview, and offer not only how-to-solutions, but allow the public to see the personal side of the person. I have participated in several of these. It's a great way to be seen by thousands of people Online each time the article runs. Interviews are usually done in question and answer format. Always use the specific questions to get more interesting answers. You can also recycle this information for more content on your Web site or in your own ezine.

6. Write your success story.

Author Debbie Allen asked me to write my online marketing success story for her new book. I shared this: Two friends dragged me to the Web--one insisted I set up a Web site--the other introduced me to the concept of coaching via telephone, and using email such as an online newsletter to draw new clients and stay in touch with other ones. Curious, I spent time expanding my teleseminar and ebook business Online. Learning from these information articles, I wrote 4 new books to help others succeed on Online. I've never looked back.

Web sales jumped from \$75 to \$2265 in just five months. In eight months, sales soared to \$3000. Consistent sales each month made up over 1/2 my income.

I thought, I need to share this gold with others! And, so a success story is born and shared with anywhere from 1000 to 500,000 ezine readers in cyberspace. It's also included in Debbie's print book "Brazen Online Promoters" published in 2002. Three of my articles appeared in the book.

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You have ideas for your article format. Now choose an outstanding title and include the largest benefit to solving a challenge in the title. No matter what length your article is, it is well on its way to being a top Online and offline promotion method for your business.

Judy Cullins: 20-year author, publisher, book coach
Helps entrepreneurs manifest their book and web dream
Bk: How to Drastically Increase your Traffic and Web Sales
www.bookcoaching.com/products.shtml
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FREE
The Book Coach Says... includes 2 free eReports
Judy@bookcoaching.com
Ph:619/466/0622

WRITE THAT FIRST DRAFT FIRST...THEN GET PUBLISHED!

By Shery Ma Belle Arrieta

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Anne Lamott wasn't so subtle about what she thought of first drafts in her book, *Bird by Bird*. In fact, she started off by writing, "Now, practically even better news than that of short assignments is the idea of shitty first drafts. All good writers write them. This is how they end up with good second drafts and terrific third drafts."

I agree with her. First drafts are the roughest, and well, ugliest drafts. It's a common mistake of beginning writers, as well as seasoned ones, to expect themselves to produce shiny, perfect very polished and publishable first drafts. What these writers don't know is that these ugly and every-editor's-nightmare first drafts can provide them with the opportunity to explore every angle, every slant, and every idea for an article or a work.

WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING! Well, at least try to write all of them down. This is the stage where you don't let the memories of your English professors get in the way of writing. When you start with your first (or rough) draft, you have the prerogative to hurl those boring English and grammar rules out the window. Don't worry, you'll pick them up later.

STEW FOR A WHILE! After you get all your ideas down on paper, leave them. And I mean it! Don't even try touching them until a sufficient amount of time has lapsed. Give it a day or two. Let it stew on your desk. Go to your dentist, get a manicure, or write other stuff, but don't, for your muse's sake, get your hands on your first draft just yet!

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GET LETHAL WITH THAT RED MARKER! The next day is the time you can brandish your most lethal weapon – your red (or any color you prefer) marker. Take out your terrible (and you will realize that it is terrible!) first draft and start crossing out ideas and sentences you don't need.

ON TO A GOOD SECOND DRAFT! Remember the English and grammar rules you threw out the window the day before? Now's the time to pick them up. You need them now. Go over the remains of your first draft. You probably can't help wincing as you go along and start editing your work, joining fragments, making the verbs and the subjects agree with each other, correcting your spelling and

finding that sentence or paragraph to lead your article or story. Firm up your second draft. You will find that it's a lot leaner and better than your terrible first draft.

GO AHEAD, GO FOR THE KILL! With an already better and much-improved second draft, why stop when you can make it even better and more polished? Like what Lamott wrote, go over your third draft as if you're a dentist looking for cavities, flossing every tooth and treating bad breath. Your third draft hopefully is your final and best draft.

ASSIMILATE, ASSIMILATE! Lamott wrote, "The first draft is the child's draft, where you let it all pour out and then let it romp all over the place, knowing that no one is going to see it and that you can shape it later." Let your ideas flow the first time you sit down to write that article or story! It's only when you write those terrible first drafts will you be able to produce really, really great stories! Then you can get them published!

Shery Ma Belle Arrietamailto:publisher@ewritersplace.com Shery is the creator and author of the exciting new series of ebooks for writers, **SEEDS: Ideas for the Everyday (Non-Fiction) Writer**. You can download a **FREE** sampler at <http://ewritersplace.com/seeds.html>. The July **SEEDS** ebook contains 82 idea seeds, all based on historical events. Visit <http://www.thepublishedwriter.com/report1002.html>.

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