



The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing: How to Write, Work, and Thrive on Your Own Terms

By Zachary Petit

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Prime Your Freelance Writing Career for Success!

So you want to be a freelance writer. Great! But now you're faced with a laundry list of questions: Should I freelance full time or part time? Should I write for magazines, newspapers, or online markets? How do I dream up the perfect article idea, and how do I pitch it successfully? How do I negotiate contracts, foster relationships with editors, and start getting steady work while avoiding financial panic attacks and unpleasant ulcers?

The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing answers all of these questions--and much more. From breaking in to navigating the basics of the business, this book is your road map to a fruitful and rewarding freelance life. You'll learn how to:

- Dig into various markets, including consumer magazines, trade journals, newspapers, and online venues.
- Make your digital mark and build your writing platform.
- Pitch like a pro and craft solid query letters that get responses.
- Conduct professional interviews in person, by phone, or by e-mail.
- Write and structure various types of articles, from front-of-the-book pieces to profiles and features.
- Quit your lackluster day job, and live the life you've always wanted.

Filled with insider secrets, candid advice, and Zachary Petit's trademark humor and blunt honesty, *The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing* won't just show you how to survive your freelancing writing career--it will teach you how to truly thrive.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Funny, useful, and yes, essential." --**A.J. Jacobs**, *New York Times* best-selling author, editor at large at *Esquire* magazine, NPR commentator, and columnist for *Mental Floss* magazine

"Zachary Petit is the best editor I ever worked for. His *Essential Guide to Freelance Writing* is as brilliant, incisive and thorough as I expected. Do everything he says for a more successful career!" --**Susan Shapiro**, New School writing professor and *New York Times* bestselling author of *What's Never Said* and *Only As Good as Your Word: Writing Lessons From My Favorite Literary Gurus*

"As both freelance writer and magazine editor, Zachary Petit has put together the finest (and most amusing) book I've read on how to break into professional writing and what to do once you get in the door. Funny, inspiring, and brimming with crucial nuts-and-bolts information, *The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing* should be on every freelancer's bookshelf." --**Melissa Rossi**, former travel columnist and author of the *What Every American Should Know* series.

"Want to score more writing gigs and earn well while doing what you love? Here's your chance to learn the ins and outs of freelance writing from an actual editor and long-time writer who has seen it all--from difficult sources to snooze-worthy queries. Zachary's book offers new writers insider tips, counterintuitive advice (that works!), and a few naughty words (c'mon, you know they're funny)." --**Linda Formichelli**, co-author of *Write Your Way Out of the Rat Race...and Step Into a Career You Love* and co-owner of The Renegade Writer Blog and UsefulWritingCourses.com

"Getting started as a freelance writer can seem like a daunting game: so much information to sort through and so many rules and stumbling blocks that seem designed to keep you out. Zachary Petit knows all about it, and that's why he wrote this book. It's blessedly simple, yet packed with all the information you need to figure out your own unique path into this business. Zac's hard-won wisdom is both educational and entertaining. *The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing* can save you tons of time, help you earn more money, and keep you out of trouble while you're doing it. If you grab a copy and read it, you'll be well equipped to dive into the wonderful, lively, rewarding world of freelance writing." --**Elizabeth Sims**, prize-winning novelist, contributing editor for *Writer's Digest*, and author of *You've Got a Book in You: A Stress-Free Guide to Writing the Book of Your Dreams*.

"Zachary Petit's *The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing* is exactly that: essential. Covering every topic a freelancer might need to understand, from query letters to tax deductions, Petit has created a veritable freelancer's bible of insight and wisdom, replete with concrete examples. Suited for both the emerging writer hoping to break into the market and the trained veteran looking for a useful reference, *The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing* is a must-have for independent writers. One wonders how we have survived for so long without such a volume." --**Jacob M. Appel**, author of *Einstein's Beach House*

About the Author

Zachary Petit is an award-winning journalist, editor-in-chief of the National Magazine Award-winning publication *PRINT*, and co-author of *A Year of Writing Prompts: 366 Story Ideas for Honing Your Craft and Eliminating Writer's Block*. Previously, he was the managing editor of *Writer's Digest* magazine and *HOW* magazine, and executive editor of the newsstand titles *Writer's Workbook*, *Writer's Yearbook* and *Writing Basics*. Alongside the thousands of articles he has penned as a staff writer and editor, covering everything from the secret lives of mall Santas to literary legends, his words regularly appear in *National Geographic*

Kids, and have also popped up in the pages of *National Geographic*, Melissa Rossi's *What Every American Should Know* book series, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and many other outlets.

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Frances Coffey:

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Joseph Mesta:

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