

# Write Now and Get Published!



## An eBook to Help and Guide You Be A Better (and Published) Writer

Compiled and Edited by Sheila Ann Manuel-Coggins

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(<http://thewritelife.8m.com/>)

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*But have the courage to write  
whatever your dream is for yourself.*

- May Sarton

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## INTRODUCTION TO WRITE

By SAM Coggins  
([sam2write@icqmail.com](mailto:sam2write@icqmail.com))

Writing had been a strong, long time passion. And, being able to work with other writers is a dream I held on to for some time now as well. I think I've been coming up with several attempts at these two things for as long as I could remember. Now I'm glad that through *The Write Life Creative Writing WebHaven* (<http://thewritelife.8m.com/>) and my Suite101.com topic, *Reading on Writing* ([http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/reading\\_on\\_writing](http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/reading_on_writing)), I'm able to do both at the same time.

This is also my delight as I write and edit this eBook. It is my hope that you will not just read this – but actually begin to write.

To start things off, here are just some places where you can start to do your work, and some things you could equip yourself with when it comes to writing:

- 1) **Online Search Engines** - You can find (virtually) anything through these online help.

<http://www.yahoo.com/>  
<http://www.altavista.com/>  
<http://www.google.com/>  
<http://www.excite.com/>  
<http://www.dogpile.com/>  
<http://www.pilotsearch.com/>  
<http://www.askjeeves.com/>

- 2) **Virtual Portals and Libraries** - Although these may work like a search engine, you can actually find more than just links in these sites. Articles and information are found in these places on the web. And more often than not, they're also looking for writers and contributors.

<http://www.suite101.com/>  
<http://www.about.com/>  
<http://www.bellaonline.com/>  
<http://www.iagora.com/>  
<http://www.noahsays.com/>

- To be able to join Suite 101's discussions, win prizes and more, you must register first. Click here to register and be a member - <http://www.suite101.com/join.cfm/45040>

- 3) **Writers' Guidelines** - You must have a personal collection of these guidelines. This is one way to study your market and know what editors and publishers are looking for. Regular guidelines may be found at these sites:

<http://www.writersdigest.com/>  
<http://www.inscriptionsmagazine.com/>  
<http://www.inkspot.com/>  
<http://www.writersmarket.com/>

*Tip:* Make a comprehensive collection of Writers Guidelines from the market you're aiming to write for. (e.g. Travel, Women's Mags, Inspirational, etc.)

- 4) **Photo and/or Graphics Library** - While there may be some free photos and graphics you'd find on CDs and the web, it is best if you can equip yourself with some basic skills. A point-and-shoot automatic camera is fine if you can't handle a SLR (single lens reflex). This is especially useful if you are aiming for the travel market area.

<http://www.thefreesite.com/>  
<http://www.freestuff.com/>  
<http://www.clipartdownload.com/>

- 5) **Cover or Query Letter** - It is important for every writer to learn how to write a cover or query letter. Make sure you get all the possible resources to learn how to write one. See articles on how to send queries at –

<http://www.novalearn.com/wol>  
[http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/freelance\\_writing](http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/freelance_writing)  
<http://www.inkspot.com/>

There are other things that I'm sure you'd be able to think of (if you haven't yet) as you go along with your writing. And, hopefully, The Write Life, Scribbles, and Reading on Writing (Suite 101.com) will continue to provide you with valuable resources.

Happy Reading – and Writing!

*SAM Coggins is also known as Sheila Ann Manuel-Coggins, Samantha Coggins or simply Shai. She's a freelance writer, editor, and teacher-trainer. Her stories, poetry and articles appear in various print and online publications. Her literary pursuits earned her an award in essay and poetry writing in Asia. She has also created and conducted workshops and courses in writing, communications, business, and psychology. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and is currently pursuing her Master of Social Sciences degree in Applied Psychology at NUS. Her first eBook, "Rust in the Roof: Introduction to Creative Writing" is now available for download.*

Download **Rust in the Roof: Introduction to Creative Writing** at <http://awriteryet.homepage.com/Rust.pdf> – yes, it's *free!*

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## **DRESSING UP FOR WRITING IDEAS**

By Sheridan (svali) Waldrop  
([svali@email.msn.com](mailto:svali@email.msn.com))

Ideas are the mannequin, which the writer wraps with the clothing of his or her style, to create a new work. One of the more difficult tasks for writers of every genre is coming up with new, fresh creative ideas.

This article will be directed at helping you, the writer, find ideas that you can "try on for size". But of course only you can decide on how to use (and wear) them. Let's see if some fit!

### **1. Wear what Fits Best** (*also known as "write what you know"*)

Every writer has heard this advice, and it has merit. The better you know your subject, the more believable a writer you will be. Whether you're writing an article about how to refinish furniture, a short story on the miracle of motherhood, or a poem of life. Knowing your subject may include research. This means work: going to the library, archives on the net, or other sources, and learning all you can about the subject you want to write about.

A good fit will read more comfortably than a "fashion" that has never been tried on before, or researched.

### **2. What's in Vogue?** (*or, the Smart Shopper knows the Market*)

I am not in any way advocating plagiarism. But reading what others are writing, may spark an idea for you, the writer who needs ideas. Reading about the medical field, may trigger a memory of Aunt Vivian, who was ill, and the time you nursed her. This could be the start of a story about aging and the elderly, and how the health care system treats them; or a vignette about an aging woman.

All artists, whether writers, painters, craftspeople, learn through sharing ideas. So, be a voracious reader, and make a habit of looking through magazines for articles or poetry. Go to the local library, visit local bookstores, and see what is being written about and published.

After all, even the greatest "fashion designers" go to the fall and spring shows, to see what's new and en vogue.

### **3. Create a quilt that you can use** (*on those cold, wintery days of writer's block*)

Whether in a notebook, or diary, try to collect and save clips of articles that have sparked an idea; or notes on ideas that may become future poetry or stories. Writers are creative people, and ideas, when they come, often flow quickly. They may also be forgotten quickly, which is tragic.

Don't let your ideas dissolve away because you can't remember what you wanted to write about. Get in the habit of having a notebook handy to keep these ideas in. As

time goes on, you may have "pieced together" a quilt full of ideas that you can fall back on when you need them.

**4. If it doesn't fit, take it back to the store** (*don't throw away your mistakes*)

These can often be rewritten at a later time, as you develop as a writer. Very few writers create a "perfect" work the first time through. Don't throw away your duds; keep them, as they may spark a rewrite, or take off. Your second, or third, or fourth rewrite may be the one that succeeds, so don't give up if the first draft is rough. The best writers keep trying over and over again. They keep "sewing" or "trying it on" until the piece fits.

**5. The fashion of real life** (*conversations with friends*)

Sometimes conversations with friends and family members can be the start of a great story or poem idea. Remember Christmas back, when the tree fell down? That might make a great humor piece. Or, remember the Thanksgiving when Joey was in the service, and couldn't make it home? That may be the beginning of a poignant poem about missing someone during the holidays.

Maybe a conversation on ethics at work, or comments heard from friends, will be the beginning of a piece on that very subject.

Writers are good listeners; they observe the world around themselves. This observation will then lead to writing. Weave in the conversational "threads" that you pick up into your stories, and you may find the "right fit" soon enough.

**6. Join a sewing bee** (*on writers groups*)

The interchange between people with a common interest can often be just the catalyst to get you writing. A writing group can also be a place to get help with your writing, such as critiques, and the honest opinion of others. These groups can be an invaluable tool, both for ideas, and help as you develop your skills.

You might be surprised at the "fashionable ideas" that you get in these groups!

**7. Sew, sew, sew** (*keep writing, no matter what*)

Every writer, especially a new one, fears how their work will be perceived, and this often keeps them from writing. Try sitting at the computer, and just type out whatever comes to mind. You will be surprised at what you may think of, as you begin typing. If this isn't enough, try giving yourself some exercises, and see what you come up with.

Some fashion (writing) ideas:

- a. Create a design (character): Just for fun, create a character. Fill in the following blanks:

hair color \_\_\_\_\_  
 eye color \_\_\_\_\_  
 body build \_\_\_\_\_  
 sex \_\_\_\_\_  
 age \_\_\_\_\_

Now, write a short paragraph, where you describe your character.

- b. Create a fashion show (create a scene): with the above, now put your character into a scene (prose), or into a poem (describe his thoughts, feelings, reactions). Use your imagination, this is just for fun, no grades! Some of the best writing starts out just for fun, and then takes off.
- c. Take the new fashion to the ballroom (create a conflict): Now give your character a problem he or she has to solve. Again, just have fun. Whether it's a tired single mother, trying to figure out how to pay her bills, or an ageing man struggling with his decreased productivity, or even a teenager worried about whether the new boy in school will like her, life is full of conflict. If poetry is your genre, perhaps describe the ambivalence inherited in certain relationships: "parting is such sweet sorrow...."

Keep it short as you do these exercises. Later, they may become notes, or serve as springboard for a short story, or article, or poem. Start keeping a file with these "mini notes", or ideas.

These are just a few thoughts, on how to generate ideas for writing. Now, go have fun, and good luck creating your new design!

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*Sheridan Waldrop, also known as svali, just recently started to write. And she discovered that she now loves it with a passion. She also loves her job as a nurse. You may send her email via <mailto:svali@email.msn.com>*

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## THE WRITE WAY TO PUBLICATION

By Marie Williams  
(<http://www.writead.com/>)

Out of the millions of writers each year who try for publication, only a very small percentage will have any luck. If you're not one of the lucky ones, don't despair. If you follow my five-step plan, you're bound to achieve some success.

- 1) **START NOW.** What are you waiting for? That perfect time is unlikely to ever happen. You need to organise yourself and allow some quality time for your writing - when your kids are tucked up in bed, when there's nothing on the box, when you feel fresh and ready to work. You may have to sacrifice time set aside for something else, but if you really want to write you'll find a way.
  
- 2) **START WITH WHAT YOU KNOW.** If you're an expert footballer or a superb cook, why not put your expertise to paper? I've seen so many new writers desperately attempt to write on subjects that they know little or nothing about. Unfortunately, they collect nothing more than rejection slips for their efforts. If that sounds like you, stop. If you write about subjects in which you are well-informed, you've already doubled your chances of success.
  
- 3) **START SMALL.** Many of us are impatient writers, we like to jump in at the deep end instead of learning how to swim first. But good writing can't be rushed. If you start by sending your work to targeted small press mags and ezines, your success rate will be much higher. When you've had a few pieces of work published, try to move up a level and submit your work to magazines with higher circulation numbers. Take just one step at a time and limit those nasty rejection slips.
  
- 4) **TARGET YOUR MARKETS.** There is no point sending a 5000 word article to a magazine that only accepts fiction. You may laugh, but you'd be amazed at how many people actually do this. Many magazines only accept commissioned work, and every magazine has its own preferences. You - at the very least - need to ask for some guidelines for submitting work.

This will save unnecessary postage on sending unsuitable manuscripts and the unnecessary disappointment at yet another rejection slip.

- 5) **READ MORE ARTICLES.** You should be reading useful articles on how to improve your writing. There is no excuse when there are so many great ezines (like this one) and websites posting articles for free.

*Marie Williams has worked in Britain as a freelance proofreader for the last three years. She established a small appraisal service over a year ago for beginning (and frustrated!) writers. What started out as a small business venture soon expanded into a full-time occupation. Marie now runs an online advisory for new writers at <http://www.writead.com>.*

Marie Williams will show you "The Write Way to Publication" with her award winning ezine. Write Advice includes jargon-free articles suitable for both new and frustrated writers. We help you write the way to your success! To receive a **Free** article, send an email to <mailto:article1@writead.com> or Subscribe NOW by sending an email to <mailto:subscribe@writead.com>

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## CREATIVE WRITING EXERCISES: WRITE LIFE CHALLENGES

By SAM Coggins  
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Here's a collection of writing exercises that we shared in The Write Life's Writers Group, *One Write Life Chat*. We've enjoyed sharing our answers and giving feedback to each other's writing pieces.

I hope you enjoy them as well.

### Write Life Challenge 1 "You In Your Writing"

=====

Using this quote:

*"What you believe in is a large part of who you are, and who you are determines your point of view in the world."* (Philip Gerard)

- 1) Write about a character who reflects your personality. You may use third or first person point of view. And please try to avoid adjectives. You may do this by writing a scene (fictional or real life), a poem, or an essay.
- 2) List ten things you believe in. Choose one you feel most passionate about and write something about it.

### Write Life Challenge 2 "Hodge Podge"

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- 1) Imagine you're in a Writers Cafe. Can you picture what you'll find in such a place? Who will you find there? What is everyone doing? And yes - write whatever your imagination's feeding you right now.
- 2) Write anything that comes to mind as you read these Starter Phrases:
  - \* "The gift I wish someone will give me is..."
  - \* "I am most creative when..."
  - \* "If only I could..."
- 3) Freewrite for five minutes using one or more of the following words:

June	Christmas	Thank	Sing	Notes
Life	Journal	Memory	Friend	Envy
Duh!	email	teen	daddy	dog

### Write Life Challenge 3 "Writing Resolutions"\*

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- 1) List 5 things you wish to write about
- 2) From this list, pick one topic (e.g. "crayons"). Then write, "I want to write about (crayons) because..."
- 3) List 3 major writing goals (e.g. "Get a short story published this year in an online publication."). Just remember to set realistic but challenging goals.
- 4) Give yourself a deadline and a possible reward.
- 5) Complete this sentence: "One day, I hope I'd be a \_\_\_\_\_ writer. This will happen when..."

\* This activity was also shared through Sheila Ann Manuel-Coggins' article, **"Writing Resolutions"** at Suite 101.com's **Reading on Writing** page ([http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/reading\\_on\\_writing](http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/reading_on_writing))

### Write Life Challenge 4: "Choose and Write"

=====

- \* Choose a name

Shane	Joannie	Sunny	Burt
Nelie	Dian	Dex	Blue
Trace	Les	Malone	Quartain
Carlie	Mikee	Reuben	Alvin

- \* Choose a descriptive word

Beautiful	Greedy	Fair-skinned	Forgetful
Shrewd	Fat	Cheerful	Sensitive
Wonderful	Aloof	Talented	Smart
Kind	Quiet	Outgoing	Friendly

- \* Choose a thing

Violin	Paper	Notebook	Dictionary
Computer	Board	Plastic	Bag
Stapler	Desk	Speaker	Curtain
Folder	Fan	Television	Car

\* Fill in the blanks and continue writing until you run out of things to say.

(name) is (description). He/she likes/doesn't like (thing) because... He/she began to like/dislike this...

\* Then you may repeat the process until you find something you feel driven to write about.

**Bonus Challenge:**

*"My Writing Wish List"* - List down anything and everything you wish someone would give you this Christmas/New Year. The list should be mostly writing-related.

**Write Life Challenge 5:  
"Blank is the Art"**

=====

Fill in the blanks of this phrase -

"\_\_\_\_\_ is the art of \_\_\_\_\_"

Then expound creatively!

And just to let you know I take my own challenges - here's my line:

*"Marriage is the art of saying 'I love you' - even when you get on each other's nerves!"*

What will your line be?

**Write Life Challenge 6:  
"The Advice"**

=====

- Share with the group the BEST Writing Advice you've been given (read, told, heard...)
- What about the WORST Writing Advice ever?

**Write Life Challenge 7:  
" Writing Mission Statement"**

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Why do you want to write? Have you ever thought of a personal mission statement about writing?

If and when you know your mission, your purpose, your goal when it comes to writing, other elements that you would need to succeed is easier to fit. So I hope that

at this point, you could take time to find out these things and develop your own mission statement.

**Write Life Challenge 8:  
"Writing Quotes"**

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What is your favorite quote on and about writing? Then share with us why you like it. Or how the quote helped you in your own writing.

**Write Life Challenge #9  
"Inspiration"**

=====

*"Intelligence is not enough without inspiration."*  
(paraphrased from a car commercial)

What is it that inspires you as a writer? List three sources of inspiration. You may or may not share how and why these things inspire you.

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If you would like to receive regular Writing Challenges and be able to share them with other writers, join One Write Life Chat email writers group. To join for **free**, just send a blank email to [mailto:1writelife\\_chat\\_subscribe@onelist.com](mailto:1writelife_chat_subscribe@onelist.com) – then introduce yourself to the group. After this, you may jump right in with ongoing discussions, share your writing, give feedback, and more.

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## **FROM DRAB TO GLAMOUR: WRITING THE FEATURE ARTICLE**

By Shery Ma Belle Arrieta  
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Through the feature article, any drab-looking, boring, or dry material can be transformed into an enjoyable and entertaining read without having to sacrifice the idea or the message which needs to be communicated.

Most "seeds" or germs for the feature article stem from news stories and current events. However, topics for the feature article could also not be hooked to a current event.

An old topic could be made interesting when given a fresh angle and written in such a way that readers now can relate to it.

Similarly, a technical paper full of jargons can be made interesting and readable by using different feature devices and techniques.

It's all in how the subject is treated and given a human interest angle that makes every feature story timely.

The feature article, compared to the other forms of articles, is the most varied in terms of scope of subject matter. You, the feature writer, could write anything from the most common subject to the bizarre.

The feature article also allows variety in tone, form and style. Your feature article could be written in a light or fun tone. Or it can be written in a serious tone. This all depends on what your feature subject is and for what purpose you are writing your feature.

Your feature article should also be well organized. The paragraphs and ideas should show coherence and unity. Even if the feature is written using an informal treatment, there is still a structure to follow.

The length of the feature is also varied. There is no prescribed length. How interesting your feature subject is to your readers usually determines its length. If you were writing a feature whose main purpose is to teach or inform, then in all probability your story would be lengthy.

As a feature writer, you should have the ability to write about an ordinary thing in an interesting, entertaining and informative manner. You must possess a liberal amount of creativity and an interest in life.

You should also have the ability to look and dig deeper in a news story or a particular event. Are you willing to probe beneath the surface of ordinary events? Are you willing to investigate a story or get to the bottom of things? Are you a keen observer?

**\* *Keep 'em glued!***

Short of doing a juggling-act, the feature writer should be able to make his readers read his story from start to finish.

At the onset, a reader should be interested enough for him to want to read your story.

If your aim is to amuse, your reader should by no means be amused at the end of the article. If your goal is to make your reader moved or feel sympathetic toward the subject of your feature, then you should be able to achieve that.

Move your reader. Make him feel something. Make him read your article all throughout. It's not a good sign if your readers end up hating your subject when your goal is to make him feel sympathetic or feel pity.

Topics for features can be found anywhere. Aside from news and current events, other sources are books, experiences, special events, movies, museums, conversations, familiar places, interesting people, interviews, fashion and imagination.

How you write about the topic you have chosen and how you treat your topic will determine your reader's interest in it.

**\* *How do you keep your reader's interest?***

First, your subject should be interesting enough. Or if it's been the subject of too many feature articles in the past, try to find a fresh angle, one that hasn't been used. Play this up.

Next, decide what your purpose is and keep this in mind as you write your story. As you write, your purpose might be to share an experience, write about an exciting story, change your reader's way of thinking or opinion about the subject of your story, warn your reader, motivate or inspire our reader, predict and interpret, portray a personality or share a lesson.

Always, always be specific in what you are writing. Use vivid words. Make your words, your phrases, your sentences jump off the page. Work in getting your reader involved in the story. This is effectively achieved when you use the "you" approach. This approach gives your reader a feeling of being in the story.

Use quotes from people you have interviewed. Direct quotes from them make your story more alive. Using quotes also help your story move along. Use analogies and fresh figures of speech, no trite phrases or clichés. They've been used so many times before, don't use them again.

**\* *So how do you begin to write your feature?***

Simple. First, you pick your subject. You might change your mind several times but after you've made the final decision, try to limit your subject to a specific area. Early on at this stage, it's better for you have a tentative title. You can work around this title or later, you can change this into a more apt feature title.

Next, write down the main things that you want to do in your feature article. Try to pinpoint specific highlights and as much as possible, give specific details. You can

use devices and situations you think will hold your reader's interest. Write the first draft of your feature.

Let your first draft sit on your desk for a few hours or even a few days. Then, go back to it and rewrite. Polish, edit. Edit, polish. Decide on your final title. Print out a copy and you now have a story to submit!

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*Shery Ma Belle Arrieta is a writer and poet based in the Philippines. She has written radio scripts, documentaries and features; and news and feature articles in several community newspapers. She runs two online magazines, WIRED! Philippines (<http://www.msc.edu.ph/wired>) and Sites, Biz and Zines! (<http://sbz.4mq.com>) and is editor of Cotworld (<http://www.cotworld.com>), an online literary/creative zine. You can contact her at <mailto:iamsbery@msc.net.ph>.*

New ebook for beginning writers! EVERY BEGINNING WRITER'S GUIDEBOOK ON NEWS, FEATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING is now available at Booklocker (<http://www.booklocker.com/bookpages/sarrieta.htm>). Order a copy now. You can also download a preview copy at (<http://sbz.4mq.com/ebook.htm>)

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## **BUILD YOUR PUBLISHING CREDITS**

By Lila Guzman  
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Here are suggested strategies on how you can build your publishing credits:

1. **START SMALL.** Submit to well-respected "little" and "literary" magazines. Pay will be slight. \$10 is typical for a short story, but the exposure from a prestigious small market can be surprisingly enormous.
2. **SUBMIT TO CONTESTS THAT PUBLISH WINNING ENTRIES.** A good example would be the Arizona Literary Association's annual contest. Contact them at: 3509 Shea Blvd., Suite 117, Phoenix, AZ 85028-3339 or call (602) 942-9602. Prize winners and honorable mentions are published in poetry, essay and short story.
3. **SEARCH WEEKLY FOR NEW MARKETS.** Don't rely solely on in-print writers markets. They are a good starting place, but often their information is dated. Cruise the Internet for free market newsletters that come directly to your e-mail. Through the Internet, I found two markets I never saw in print: (1) An adoption anthology, and (2) A speed-reading course. The adoption anthology accepted my short story. In my by-line, I mentioned that my novel, LORENZO'S LAMBS, had been accepted for publication. (No pay for the story, but free publicity for my novel.) Don't forget to search for new ezines. They are always hungry for material.
4. **BRANCH OUT.** It's tempting to send material to an editor who has published you and obviously loves your writing. However, credits from different sources show that your writing is strong, competitive, and has already passed inspection with a number of editors.
5. **GO INTERNATIONAL.** A Canadian credit might be the edge you need with a Canadian publisher. It also shows that your writing appeals to a wide audience. Universality is one of the keys to good literature. Even if your story is Texan in flavor and voice, it will know no boundaries if it tells a good story, has interesting characters, and stirs emotion.
6. **KEEP SUBMITTING.** It's easy to get discouraged, but don't let "them" beat you down. Rejection is going to happen. I once received a \$150 check in the mail for a four-page short story, only to receive a SCATHING rejection shortly thereafter from a different editor. (It was one of those "who-told-you-you-could-write" rejections.)

7. **BE WILLING TO WRITE FOR LITTLE OR NO PAY.** I wrote an exposé and published it in THE AUSTIN WRITER. Then I sent it to every writers newsletter I could find. It appeared in the Sisters in Crime national newsletter and in the Winter '98 CANADIAN WRITER'S JOURNAL. In my cover letter, I waived a reprint fee and asked only that I be sent a copy of the newsletter/magazine when it appeared. Why? Great exposure! It also secured me a speaking engagement at a writers' conference, so it paid off in the long run.
8. **WRITE SHORT.** When I mention credits in a query letter, "In Perpetuity" looks just as impressive as "Michael's Search." Both are in anthologies (one in a creative writing text; the other in an adoption anthology). However, "In Perpetuity" is 550 words. "Michael's Search" is over 3,000.
9. **DO MULTI-GENRE/CROSS-GENRE WRITING, THEN TAILOR YOUR QUERY LETTER TO REFLECT THAT.** If you write for a particular genre, mention credits earned in that genre first in your query letter. You may have published a story in a top-of-the-line science fiction magazine, but will that impress a romance editor? Garner credits in a number of genres so you can change your query letter as appropriate. Crossing genres is becoming popular with editors who see the same old stuff day in and day out. Let's say you just wrote a vampire short story with a romance angle. That means you have at least two potential genre markets. If it doesn't sell as horror, it might well make it in the romance market. (Romance novels make up 40% of the novel market.)
10. **USE YOUR AUTHOR BIO SHAMELESSLY.** It's free publicity for your bigger project. Every time I publish a story, I mention LORENZO'S LAMBS in the author bio. Now, every "freebie" has gone up in value--it's another way to promote my novel. Get your name out before the public as often as you can. Do volunteer work that's writing related (in local schools, at your local writers' league.) Write a column for a newsletter. (Little pay, if any, but you see your name in print. So do others.) Become a book reviewer. And don't be surprised when writing assignments and requests find their way to your email box because some editor has seen your name.
11. **NETWORK WITH OTHER WRITERS.** Join a writers' league, critique group, or on-line literary chat room. Share knowledge, advice, and potential markets. Don't look at other writers as competition, but rather as sources of marketing information. (You scratch their backs and they'll scratch yours.)
12. **SEEK OUT ANTHOLOGIES.** Not only are anthologies impressive credits, they are superb markets for already-sold stories. What a great way to keep your name in circulation. When a story is reprinted, inform editors who have previously published that story. They will appreciate knowing one of "their" stories made it into an anthology. (A little schmoozing goes a long way.)
13. **WRITE, WRITE, WRITE, WRITE, WRITE.** Stock your store with lots of finished or nearly finished pieces. That way, when you see a call for stories about Anthrax in Roman Times, you can pull out that nearly finished story about the sole survivor of an anthrax plague, do a little fine-tuning, and send it out.

14. **USE CHUTZPAH.** The editor of the Roswell Literary Review accepted "She's Got Spurs and She Ain't Afraid to Use 'Em" for the Halloween edition. Knowing that this editor also published MILLENNIUM SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY—an excellent credit I desperately coveted—I sent her an e-mail. "Would you be interested in publishing 'Spurs' in MSF&F too?" She e-mailed me back and asked, "Would 'Spurs' be a freebie?" I shot off an e-mail—"Sure!" Not only did I get two credits for that story, I garnered the good will of the editor and it only cost me \$10.00 in lost fees.

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*Lila Guzman is an award-winning author of short stories. Her young adult novel, LORENZO'S LAMBS, is the story of the Spanish contribution to the American Revolution. A member of the Austin Writers' League board of directors, Lila gives writing workshops and presentations. Visit her at <http://www.talk.to/Lila>*

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**Critique Service.** Published fiction writer (novel/short story) will line-by-line edit of manuscript in courier font, 12 pitch. \$1.00 per page. Contact Lila Guzman at [lorenzo1776@yahoo.com](mailto:lorenzo1776@yahoo.com)

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## WRITING QUOTES FOR INSPIRATION

Compiled By SAM Coggins  
([sam2write@icqmail.com](mailto:sam2write@icqmail.com))

“Writing is communication, not self-expression; nobody in this world wants to read your diary except your mother.” (Richard Peck)

“Writing is the process by which you explain to yourself what happened to you.” (Arlene Croce)

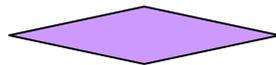
“The two creatures most to be pitied are the spider and the novelist--- their lives hanging by a thread spun out of their own guts.” (Katherine Paterson)

“A writer is a person with his skin off.” (Donald Graves)

“Writing is the greatest tool for thinking ever invented by mankind.” (John C. Mellon)

“Go to your knees before you go to your typewriter.” (Anonymous)

“Don’t leave God out of your writing.” (Donna Clark Goodrich)



“If you wait for inspiration, you’re not a writer, but a waiter.” (Anonymous)

“Creativity is a continual surprise.” (Ray Bradbury)

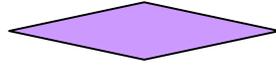
“The more a man writes, the more he can write.” (William Hazlitt)

“Inspirations never go in for long engagements; they demand immediate marriage to action.” (Brendan Francis)

“We do not write in order to be understood, we write in order to understand.” (C. Day Lewis)

“I shall live badly if I do not write, and I shall write badly if I do not live.” (Francoise Sagan)

“Writers need to write. When you aren’t writing you aren’t certain you exist.” (Sophy Burnham)



“When you have nothing to say, you write anyway, if only to keep in practice.” (Sophy Burnham)

“(For) We all have stories. And they must be told. In telling our stories, we affirm our selves, our very being, and thereby the purpose of our Creator and our lives.” (Sophy Burnham)

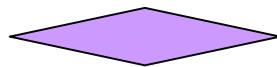
“If a story is in you, it has got to come out.” (William Faulkner)

“Ninety percent of the work of writing is internal, and only ten percent happens at the typewriter.” (Anonymous)

“It’s nervous work. The state you need to write in is the state that others are paying large sums to get rid of.” (Shirley Hazzard)

“One writes a novel in order to know why one writes it. It is the same with life--- you live not for some end, but in order to know why you live.” (Alberto Moravia)

“You must write, not just think you’re going to... And you must read widely, not in order to copy, but to find your own voice. It’s a matter of going through life with all one’s senses alive, to be responsive to experience, to other people.” (PD James)



“Writing is not apart from living. Writing is a kind of double living. The writer experiences everything twice: one in reality and once more in the mirror which waits always before and behind him.” (Donald Murray)

“Writing is so powerful. People rarely look at a painting and weep.” (An Unknown Artist)

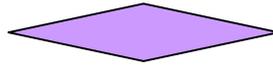
“I don’t wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has got to get down to work.” (Pearl Buck)

*"Nulla dies sine linea. No Day Without Lines."* (Emile Zola)

"Only a mediocre writer is always at his best." (W. Somerset Maugham)

"In life, we get to act polite; in fiction, we get to tell the truth." (Joel Saltzman)

"The worst thing I ever wrote was better than the best thing I never wrote."  
(Anonymous)



"Writing is like working out. You have to build up your capacity, and then go beyond that. You have to keep doing that again and again." (John Irving)

"Among all the valuable things of this world, the word is the most precious." (Hazrat Inayat Khan)

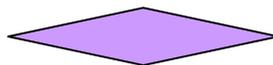
"It is difficult to get the news from poems, yet men die miserable every day for lack of what is found there." (William Carlos Williams)

"What can we--- hundreds, if not thousands of Christian writers across this continent-- accomplish for Christ in our post-Christian world during the last fleeting years of this millennium?" (Carole Gift Page)

"Writers are born to voice what we all feel. That is the gift. And we keep it alive by giving it away. It is a sacred calling." (Erica Jong)

"Generosity is the soul of writing. You write to give something to yourself. To your reader. To God. You give thanks for having been given the words. You pray to be given words another day." (Erica Jong)

"Sit down at the typewriter and open a vein." (Red Smith)



"SE Hinton, who hadn't been born yet, was to say that there are people who go and people who stay. Writers tend to be the former, always nagged by the notion we should be somewhere else, that wherever we are, the party isn't." (Richard Peck)

"It seems to me that people who advise 'write what you know' drastically underestimate the human capacity for imagining what lies beyond our immediate

knowledge and for understanding what is new to us. Equally, they overestimate the extent to which we know ourselves.” (Ann Cameron on ‘Write What You Care About’)

“All of us have to live more than one life. Sculptors. Poets. We all have to live two or three lives at the very least.” (Robert Frost)

“Stories only happen to people who can tell them.” (Lou Willett Stanek)

“There’s no stopping destiny. You should want badly to be a writer if you want to write.” (Becky Añonuevo)

“Writing must be a living thing. Growing from the heart and soul of the writer. Many will never achieve it. But to produce any honest, real writing is a great career, a fine profession, a service to mankind, and a magnificent life.” (Adela Rogers St. Johns)

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## TRAVEL WRITING: YOUR PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST\*

By Kim Applegate  
([riverbirch@bigfoot.com](mailto:riverbirch@bigfoot.com))

The flight is booked, hotel confirmed, and you're off to sunny climes or snowy mounts. With a little pre-flight prep, you can turn your next vacation into a published travel article!

### Know Your Destination

Before leaving, start researching.

- Search the Internet for sites about your destination.
- Go to the library for travel books.

Note what is being written about -- are two or three beaches always mentioned, an upcoming festival, or a regular Sunday carnival? What type of activities are available to tourists? What is the area famous for - gold, handicrafts, art museums...? Learn as much as you can about the area you will be visiting.

While online, check out newsgroups and forums to touch base with people in the area. You can get valuable insider information and maybe a contact or two for your destination.

### Know Your Markets

With your research in mind, start your market search. What magazines are potential customers? *Writer's Market* (<http://www.writersdigest.com/index.htm>) and *AWOC* (<http://www.awoc.com/Guidelines.cfm>) are two good sources for potential markets. Make a list of the specific magazines you may want to query. Go to your library again and look at back issues of the magazines. What kind of articles do they publish - human interest, first person, destination pieces? What are some topics you might query. Many magazines are now on the web and you can read past articles, or at least the headlines, to get a feel for what has already been published. Don't despair if your destination has already been featured. A previously published article tells you the magazine is interested in your destination. Take a different twist on the area and you have a good chance of making a sale.

Choose a notebook you can use to take notes and carry with you on your travels. List the markets, query ideas, and their photographic requirements. For example, some magazines will only take 35mm color slides; others will only consider black and white negatives. Also, bring copies of model releases to be signed when you take recognizable photos of people.

## **Prepare Your Writer's Kit**

Pack your notebook and plenty of pens. If you use a tape recorder, throw it into your bag along with cassette tapes and extra batteries. Get your camera and film together as well as an extra battery or two as it is hard to find the right camera battery when you are abroad. Film also tends to cost more away from home and there are concerns that the unexposed canisters may not have been stored properly and therefore the film quality is questionable.

*Tip:* Bring small, easy to carry gifts representing your home country. Little flag pins, candies and pens are possible gifts to give to people you interview and assist you during your travels.

Large office envelopes are a lifesaver on the road. As you collect pamphlets, tour brochures, ticket stubs, and other assorted pieces of paper (and you will collect them) you can organize as you go. Label the envelopes by topic or location for the bits and pieces you collect. You'll be less likely to lose important info and post-trip organizing will be a much less daunting task.

Pack business cards identifying you as a writer. If you do not have cards, go to a quick print shop and have them made up. Simple cards are best with your name, full street address including the country, email address, website, and phone number with area code. Office Depot and Staples offer inexpensive basic white business cards but check around your area for the best deal.

## **Your Pre-flight Checklist:**

- Destination Information
- Market Information
- Notebook with market info, query ideas, and contact info
- Tape recorder, cassette tapes, and an extra set of batteries
- Camera, plenty of film, and another battery plus Model Releases
- Envelopes to organize material while on your tip
- Business cards
- Small, easy to carry gifts from your home country

The Pre-flight checklist is the start of a great trip and a published article!

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\* This article originally appeared on Suite 101 in Sept. 1999 and was reprinted on <http://www.creativepursuits.com/reststopnews/>

*Fitting freelance writing in with a full time career and a busy household has been a challenge but Kim Applegate believes in fulfilling dreams and achieving goals. She started writing four years ago and now enjoys sharing her experiences with other writers through her web site at Suite101.com and in her ezine, Travel Writing Update.*

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- 1) **Suite101.com** is looking for regular Contributing Editors in various topic areas of interest. Click here to register (<http://www.suite101.com/join.cfm/45040>). We're especially on the lookout for people interested to handle topics in the Social Sciences category. But we also have other open topics. Visit our web site for more details and Join Us Soon. For more info, send an email to [indigo\\_sky@suite101.com](mailto:indigo_sky@suite101.com)
- 2) **IAGORA** (<http://www.iagora.com/>) is a multilingual site for people living abroad. They're constantly on the lookout for Features (pays \$40 each), articles for Culture Shock section (pays \$20) and Off The Beaten Path section (pays \$20), as well as Book Reviews (pays \$5). Check their web site for more details.
- 3) **Dynamic Patterns**, eBook Publisher, is currently seeking high-quality, completed manuscripts for consideration of e-publication. We accept:
  - All fiction and its sub-genres, including but not limited to Romance, Historical, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Mystery, Horror, Supernatural, Gothic, etc.
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- 4) **The Fiction Writer** offers a fresh view for readers and writers of fiction. They are open for submissions – in any of these categories: Short Story, Nonfiction, Essays, and Short Humor. They have an online writers' guideline which you can check out if you're interested to write for them. Visit their web site at <http://www.thefictionwriter.com>
- 5) **New Writers Market** (<http://www.fiber-net.com/pub/he/>) for news and resources.
- 6) **Writers Resource Central** (<http://www.kalama.com/~mariner/qserwrit.htm>)  
Check out new writers jobs and posts.

- 7) **Orpheus Romance** (<http://www.orpheusromance.com/>) is a place to submit your \*high quality\* romances. They're one of the leading e-publishers of this genre. They accept short stories and novel-length love stories. You may find Writers' Guidelines at their web site.
- 8) **Romance Haven's List of Publishers** (<http://hometown.aol.com/RomanceHaven/publishers.htm>) on the Romance genre is a treasure cove of various places to submit your work. Most of the publishers featured here are interested in book-length manuscripts. But some may also consider publishing shorter fiction.
- 9) **Monique Cuvelier: Journalism Jobs, Writing and Editing Jobs in Print and New Media** (<http://home.earthlink.net/~cuvelier/INK/JOBS/newsjobs.html>) This site contains a lot of links to available writing jobs you may like to see.
- 10) **Planet Relish eZine** (<http://www.planetrelish.com/submission.html>) is a Web-based magazine devoted exclusively to speculative humor. Accepts short stories, and only short stories. Payment is a flat fee of US \$5 for each piece of fiction. Payment is on publication. Submissions will be by e-mail ONLY.
- 11) **Images Inscript** (<http://www.ImagesInscript.com/>) is an exciting, interactive e-zine that provides a viewing commentary and discussion forum. Completed works can be submitted for possible publication and the chance to be awarded the prize of \$50.00 for the best poem and short story.
- 12) **Writers Markets Writer's Guidelines Index**  
<http://www.writersmarkets.com/index-guidelines.htm>
- 13) **A Brief September** (<http://come.to/briefseptember/>) is now on-line and accepting submissions. It will publish \*only\* flash fiction. The editor caps submissions at 750 words. Check out guidelines at the web site.
- 14) **About.com** (<http://www.about.com/>) gives a lot of guide on finding writing jobs and freelance work on the net. Go to their jobs section (type "Writing" or other relevant keywords in the search box) and/or check out the Freelance Writing topic page. You can also try out to be a Guide!

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<b>WEB SITES OF INTEREST</b>
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- 1) The Write Life Creative Writing Web Haven – <http://thewritelife.8m.com/>
- 2) Am I A Writer Yet Ezine – <http://awriteryet.homepage.com/>
- 3) Reading on Writing (Suite101.com) – [http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/reading\\_on\\_writing](http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/reading_on_writing)
- 4) Christian Writing (Suite101.com) - [http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/christian\\_writing](http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/christian_writing)
- 5) Literary Agents - <http://www.absolute-sway.com/pfp/html/litagents.html>
- 6) BookWire - <http://www.bookwire.com/AAR/MembersA-E.html>
- 7) More Agents Listing - <http://www.writers-free-reference.com/agents.htm>
- 8) Warnings and cautions for writers - <http://www.sfwa.org/beware/agents.html>
- 9) Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts - <http://www.stus.com/ncs/vla.htm>
- 10) Aaron's Kidwriter Page - <http://www.aaronshep.com/kidwriter/index.html>
- 11) The Children's Book Council - <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>
- 12) A Children's book editor's site - <http://www.users.interport.net/~hdu/>
- 13) The children's writing resource center - <http://www.write4kids.com/index.html>
- 14) Inkspot - <http://www.inkspot.com/>
- 15) The Society of Children's book Writers and Illustrator' - <http://www.scbwi.org/>
- 16) Children's picture book data base - <http://mycroft.lib.muohio.edu/pictbks/>
- 17) Writers Free Reference - <http://www.writers-free-reference.com/>
- 18) Children's Writing (Suite 101) - [http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/childrens\\_writing](http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/childrens_writing)
- 19) Helpful articles for writers and publishers - <http://home.earthlink.net/~ivanlove/helpful.html>
- 20) Rhyming dictionary - <http://www.link.cs.cmu.edu/dougb/rhyme-doc.html>
- 21) Write Express - <http://www.WriteExpress.com/online.html>
- 22) Copyright law site - <http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/>

- 23) Tips for Aspiring Writers at Writers Digest - [http://www.writersdigest.com/catalog/rather\\_home.html](http://www.writersdigest.com/catalog/rather_home.html)
- 24) Getting Published on the Internet for Beginners By Gregory A. Knollenberg - <http://www.writerswrite.com/journal/gak1.htm>
- 25) 4 Writers' Fiction 99 Workshop - <http://www.4-writers.com>  
This is a long-established, six-week fiction writing course. Quite popular and has a large numbers of participants. It is Website/message-board based. You download the week's material on Sundays. They use **"Writing Down the Bones"** by **Natalie Goldberg**\* as a reader. This course is staged 4 or 6 times each year.

\* You can buy "Writing Down the Bones" by Natalie Goldberg through - <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0877733759/indigoinn>

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