

## What is Freelance Writing?

This section is the result of many aspiring writers contacting me about becoming a freelance writer. After reading my newspaper column, a piece I wrote for a magazine or just hearing that I wrote as a freelancer for a living, they wanted to know how to do it too. My first thought was, *Did they know this was not an easy job? Did they know this was a 7/24 hour job?* With that in mind, I felt there probably was a need to explain what a freelancer is and does. It is necessary to understand the self promotion and marketing involved with being a freelancer, in order to become a known writer. That old saying, “don’t quit your day job” is very true when it comes to getting started. Unless an aspiring freelancer has financial support from another source, the job that pays the bills now has to be kept until you are an established writer.

Part of being a freelance writer is networking, connecting, and showcasing. Most know what networking and connecting is but they don’t understand the showcasing part. Showcasing is learning how to display your wares. Your wares are your writings. A freelancer’s work must show up everywhere. It must be in newspapers, magazines, on-line, newsletters, brochures and anywhere and everywhere one reads something written by you. This becomes a freelancer’s clips. The more clips you have, the more work you can generate. Sometimes the work even comes to you because of articles you have written were being read by someone looking for a freelancer.

The other part some aspiring writers don’t understand is doing things other than writing. Part of connecting and networking is done at conferences, seminars, fairs, conventions, and all the places a writer can talk with publishers. Two of my writing assignments came from attending a job fair held by the National Urban League. Not there looking for a writing opportunity, I got two assignments from a publisher that was there to solicit readers of her magazines. A little conversation and voila, I was sent to the publisher’s senior editor and became a contributing writer.

In this section will be ways to learn how to enter the field of freelancing and survive. It will cover the subject in a general sort of way because everything changes constantly. Due to advanced technology, what I include today will most likely evolve in the next year to a higher level. What never changes is the grunt work an aspiring writer has to do. It all starts with the writer and that is what this section is all about, how to get started.

Good luck on your endeavors!