Over 100 Tips, Exercises, and Techniques to Sell Nonfiction Articles

Get Your Articles Published!

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by Melanie Bowden

Over 100 tips, exercises, and techniques to
sell **your** nonfiction articles

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"Let your accomplishments excite you, but don't let them placate you. Let your rejections teach you something, but don't let them paralyze you." – **Linda DeMers Hummel**

INTRODUCTION

Hello, fellow writer! I wrote this workbook so that you can start taking steps now to get your articles published. The content is based on a magazine writing course that I designed and teach, information I've learned in my own writing career (check my bio at the end for more information on what I've published), and from coaching other writers.

If I can get published, anybody can. During my years as a student, English was always my worst subject. I was a math person! Although I loathed essay tests and writing papers, from a very young age I kept a diary of my private thoughts and observations. *Harriet the Spy* was one of my favorite childhood books. I even looked like Harriet with my glasses, page-boy hair cut, and tomboy clothes. I **so** wanted to be her and write detailed notebooks on the world around me. Any other type of writing, however, was a struggle.

In my 30s I started writing in my journals about the challenges I faced as a young mother. I found the writing very therapeutic and almost life-saving at times as I suffered through depression issues. When I looked back on the entries, I thought--hey, maybe I have something here--and started to educate myself about publication. But, boy, did I make a lot of mistakes in the beginning! This workbook is filled with tips and strategies I learned along the way so you can avoid the errors I made and get published and paid a lot faster than I did.

The thing that separates writers who get published from writers who don't is persistence. I won't lie to you. Writing is a tough business. But, by using the exercises and tips in this book and reading and writing whenever you can, you will eventually see your name in print. Don't give up! It will happen.

I recommend you cover one section at a time at the most while working through this book, or even half a section or less for the longer ones. Take time to let each section sink in so you can process the information and exercises. Writing doesn't always mean putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard. The time you spend thinking, reading, and analyzing will make you a better writer.

Your fee for this workbook includes a Query Letter Review. When you have a letter ready, paste it into the body of an email (no attachments, please), and send your letter to me at: melaniebowden@earthlinknet. I will email you back my comments. Don't know what a query letter is? You will know all about them by the end of this book.

I'm happy to answer questions you have about the workbook through my email address above. I do request that you hold any questions until you have completed the entire book as your questions may be answered in later sections.

Everyone's path to publication is different. This book is a compilation of what's worked best for me and many other writers. If some techniques don't feel right for you, please modify them to your situation. You also may not be new to magazine writing. If so, I believe you still will find information in this book that will increase your number of publishing successes.

Now--let's get going and get you published!

STEPS TO PUBLICATION

In the beginning I thought selling articles began with sending out completed articles to magazines. Wrong! All I received were rejection letters. Why? Because I wasn't following the steps that published, professional writers do.

The majority of magazine editors (95% or higher) don't want completed manuscripts. They want to see article proposals. That way they can then describe for you, before you start writing the article, the details of the piece they want you to write for them. An article proposal is known as a query letter.

Each step to publication will be covered in this workbook along with other information about the magazine publishing world. Here are the steps in chronological order:

• Find an Article Idea

• Research Magazine Markets to find ones that are a good fit for your topic

• Line up Interview Subjects and Research Statistics about your topic

• Write your Query Letter and submit it to an editor or editors

• Obtain the Assignment

• Write your Article

• Get Published and Paid!

Some of the steps may not make logical sense to you. For example, why would you secure interviews for an article before you have the assignment? You'll find out why in this book.

So, hold on. Although some steps may seem out of order to you now, it will all become clear.

"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path." - **Sir Winston Churchill**

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