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Freelance technical writing jobs

I've been a freelance writer for over 20 years. I enjoy writing about anything from non-fiction self-help to fiction thrillers and mysteriesLearn how to make \$100+ by writing freelance articles!Photo by Olichel via PixabayTired of Working for Pennies?Finding freelance writing jobs that pay more than pennies can often be a challenge. It seems as if most publishers feel that freelance writers don't deserve more than a penny per word. At that rate, a 500-word article will pay \$5. Even if you are a fast writer you would need to write four of those articles per hour just to make a decent wage. Those earnings do not include any time spent on research. Research always comes out of the writer's pocket and can often take more time than writing the piece.But It Doesn't Have to Be That WayThere are plenty of good publishers who love their freelance writers and aren't afraid to show it. Namely, magazine publishers. Many magazine publishers, both online and offline, take freelance writers seriously and they pay serious wages. Some as much as \$100 or more per article. Some even pay \$1 or more per word. A freelance writer can generate a decent annual income on a dozen or more articles when writing for magazines that pay decent wages.I've Been All Around As a freelance writer for 20+ years, I have been all around the Internet searching for real, legitimate, good-paying writing jobs. I've taken low-paying jobs (my first paid writing job was a weekly newspaper column for \$10 per week) and I've had high-paying magazine article jobs. I prefer the better wages. After all, writing is a job and it's hard work. I deserve to be paid a fair amount of money. Right?So Where Can You Find Those High-Paying Jobs?Everywhere there are magazines. Magazine publishers pay some of the highest wages to freelance writers. Here are 20 of the best places for freelance writers:1. Cosmopolitan MagazinePer their guidelines,"Send us an essay of no more than 800 words about a memorable, crazy, hilarious, or touching college experience. Stories about friends, class, dating, partying, studying, working, interning – anything that happened to you or around you in college is fair game. (Or: Tell us why you didn't go to college, why college is bullshit, what you're doing instead...)If we publish your essay on Cosmopolitan.com, we'll pay you \$100 – and hit you up for future assignments."2. A Fine ParentA Fine Parent is an online community for parents who believe that Great Parents are Made, Not Born." Pay is \$100 per article.3. Reader's DigestThey will pay writers \$100 for a 100 word personal, true story. Everyone has a story, right?4. Carve MagazineThey seek good honest fiction and pay contributors \$100. There is a \$3 submit fee.5. BoulevardTheir website states, "Boulevard strives to publish only the finest in fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. While we frequently writers with previous credits, we are very interested in less experienced or unpublished writers with exceptional promise. If you have practiced your craft and your work is the best it can be, send it to Boulevard." They pay \$100-\$300 for prose and a minimum \$25 for poetry with a max of \$250. Submissions are accepted September 1 through May 1.6. ClarkesworldA science fiction and fantasy magazine, they accept submissions of 1000-16,000 words at a pay rate of \$0.08-\$0.10 per word.7. Chicken Soup for the SoulThey look for inspirational stories about "ordinary people who have extraordinary experiences". They pay \$200 for a 1200 word article.8. Cicada MagazineA young adult magazine, they accept submissions from teen writers and adults. They pay up to \$0.25 per word with a max word count of 9000.9. Power for LivingA weekly publication for adult Christians, Power for Living accepts submissions for feature articles on a variety of topics that are inspirational and "show the power of Christ at work." Pay is \$125-\$375.10. Big Grey HorseIf you live in Texas, Big Grey Horse accepts submissions on almost anything Texas. They pay \$125-\$200 per article.11. Puritan MagazineThey are an "online, quarterly publication based in Toronto, Ontario, committed to publishing the best in new fiction, poetry, interviews, essays, and reviews." Pay is \$100 each for essays, interviews, or reviews. \$50 for fiction work and \$15-\$60 for poems.12. The Upper RoomPays \$25 for a 250-word Christian meditation.13. Bitch MediaPer their website, "We're always looking pitches that speak to feminist responses to pop culture. Our definition of pop culture is broad, encompassing cultural attitudes and myths, phenomena of the popular imagination, and social trends as well as movies, TV, magazines, books, advertising, and the like. We are looking for discussion-provoking critical essays that are well researched with evidence to back up claims, timely statistics, and connections between one's personal experience and larger social forces. Interviews with feminist culture-makers are welcome, as are book, film, and music reviews and nuanced analyses of particularly horrifying and/or inspiring examples of pop culture." Payment is \$40 - \$200, depending on the magazine section you're writing for.14. Sports SpectrumThey look for Christian freelance writers who have a sports background. They pay 21 cents per word.15. Wow! WomenWomen on Writing offers their readers the chance to publish their work and also gives tips on writing. Well worth looking into. They pay anywhere between \$50-\$150, depending on the article type.16. Scary MommyAn online parenting website for imperfect parents. They pay around \$100 per piece.17. The Sun MagazineIf you're an expert on an interesting topic, The Sun Magazine accepts written pieces from their readers. Payments are anywhere from \$100 to \$2500, depending on the piece.18. AARPThe magazine is dedicated to people over the age of 50. They accept articles about a variety of topics that are thoughtful and timely. They pay \$1 per word.19. BabbieAccepts submissions about pregnancy, mom, baby, body and mind, and relationships. Although the website doesn't disclose payment amounts, sources say they pay \$150 for a 1200-word article.20. Transitions AbroadThey are looking for submissions about working, living, traveling, studying, and volunteering abroad. They pay up to \$150 per article.21. Just a small slice of the pie!There Are More!This list of 20 is just a small slice of the pie. There are many more magazines and websites that pay writers good wages for producing quality articles. A simple Google search can help you find more. How Do I Submit to These Magazines?Simply use Google to search these magazines. Just enter the name of the magazine along with the words "Submission Guidelines" or "Writing Guidelines." Be sure to read and adhere to each publisher's guidelines exactly so that you have a better chance of being published and getting paid.The Dreaded Query LetterIf the guidelines indicate that a query letter is needed and you're not sure how to write one, there are plenty of places that will teach you how. Here are a few websites that can help you draft a convincing query letter:Writer's Digest: A great site for writers. If you don't already have this site bookmarked I highly recommend it. They have a vast amount of information for writers. Go to their Articles section and search the term "query letter." FreelanceWriting.com: Offers free sample query letters specifically for magazines. Make A Living Writing: A wonderful website that gives a ton of information for freelance writers. They have a great piece about sending query letters. Freelance Writing Can Be a Wonderful, Lucrative Career There are hundreds, possibly thousands, of places for freelance writers to submit their work. Writing can be both fun and financially rewarding. The key is versatility. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Submit to several magazines at once and, most of all, write each and every day.After finding a magazine that's of interest, be sure to read a few of their current issues so that you know exactly what types of articles they publish. If you're not familiar with the magazine, they will know it. Show them that you know their magazine, their style, and what their readers will enjoy.If you're stuck for ideas, there are plenty of helpful sites for that too. Again, use Google to help. Happy writing!This article is accurate and true to the best of the author's knowledge. Content is for informational or entertainment purposes only and does not substitute for personal counsel or professional advice in business, financial, legal, or technical matters.© 2015 Michelle BentleyDo You Have a Best Place to Submit Your Writing? Please Share!Farha un Nisa on July 22, 2020:Mam i want to be a freelance writer, can you help me regarding this one how i submit my articles or blogs?Iman khan from Mumbai on May 04, 2019:That's comprehensive. Lovely article.If I may ask, is any person from any country eligible for these websites?Emanuel on March 11, 2019:Hi The list is so nice especially for those who want to start the freelance writing.I am impressed by your post and thank you so much.,Will share this article..Michelle Bentley (author) from Niagara Falls, New York on December 14, 2018:Hi Okon Etim!That's great that you want to become a freelance writer. This list is just a few places where you can get started as a freelance writer. If you need more help, I have a book, How to Become a Freelance Writer - The Newbie Guide to Freelance Writing, that is currently only 99 cents on Amazon. The book will take you from start to finish on becoming a writer and I think it will help you a lot. Good Luck!OKON ETIM on December 13, 2018:I am a pastor and I want to be a freelance writer.AliRein on April 19, 2018:These are great ideas! I'm always looking for more places to write for. I think Ultius (is always hiring, they treat me pretty well. I've found a lot of jobs on freelancer.com too.Janisa from Earth on April 02, 2018:Thanks for compiling a nice list of sites to try out. I also heard that listserve pays 100 per top 10 list, but I haven't tried it yet, so I'm not sure how hard it is.Rita on October 08, 2017:Awesome! Thank you very much for this information!iam on July 24, 2017:really nice informative article with a great overview of how to pursue this "career". I appreciate the list of titles - most of them are familiar and many seem like they are great candidates for submitting work. It's refreshing to realize that there are still people who read print journals and these places are actually looking for writers that are fairly compensated for their work.I'll bookmark this article and use it as a reference.thanksJanellegems on November 27, 2016:I am looking for ways to make extra income. This is good information to know that is vital for all writers. Thank you.Amy Bachrach on September 06, 2016:Scary Mommy is no longer paying for submissions effective August 2016, according to their website. Drag...Loralie Lyndon from USA on December 10, 2015:Very useful advice for new writers! Thank you .!Mantee on December 01, 2015:Hope this article helps me find a way throughThank YouJanet on October 25, 2015:Thanks for all these sources, and for the articles you have here. You are a good person and resource!Missy Smith from Florida on September 13, 2015:It is very hard to find legitimate freelance writing jobs. I have tried for a while now, getting paid in pennies. lol... Your article was very interesting and will be helpful in finding better jobs. Thanks. .)Anne Harrison from Australia on August 30, 2015:Thank you so much for this list - bookmarked for future reference as I work my way through it!Michelle Bentley (author) from Niagara Falls, New York on August 30, 2015:Thanks PegCole!7! You're very welcome. Hope the article helps!Peg Cole from North Dallas, Texas on August 29, 2015:These look like great, legitimate places where we can submit our written articles. Thank you for the ideas and tips.Vagabond Laborer on August 29, 2015:Thanks for the article, Michelle. I will check it out. A part-time freelance writer who is trying different ways to earn money online.Get some advice on what to consider before you apply for a freelance writing job on Upwork.CanvaAs a newbie freelancer, you might not pay enough attention to the jobs that you apply for, and this may cost you. I have learned the hard way that applying for the right job is crucial. So, today I am going to show you how to choose the right freelance writing jobs on Upwork. We are going to go through a few things that you must keep in mind before applying for a job. Let's get started.What to Consider Before Applying for a Freelance Writing JobClient's Rating and FeedbackJob Description Verified Payment Method Price Competition 1. Client's Rating and FeedbackOn Upwork, you will see the ratings as well as the feedback given by the freelance writers to the client. I recommend that you read through the feedback and look for things that aren't right. Suppose the client refused to pay or didn't pay the full amount to more than one freelancer, then I don't think that you should risk applying to the job. I personally don't apply for jobs offered by clients with a rating less than 4.25.There are new clients that don't have a rating history. I don't recommend applying to jobs posted by new clients unless you have no other option. They are new to the platform, and it is possible that they have never hired people online. It would be really hard to predict their demands and expectations. I personally lost some money because of working for a new client.2. Job DescriptionYou can tell a lot by how a client describes a job. Ideally, you should look for a clear job description instead of an unclear one. There are job descriptions that are only a few sentences long, and they don't exactly explain what the client requires. For example, I need a few articles written about cat food. As you can see, the client hasn't explained much about the job, and you don't know the rate that the client is willing to pay you for the job. You don't know if the client wants you to write about the advantages of cat food or promote certain type of cat food products.I am not saying that it would be wrong to apply for jobs with unclear descriptions, but I don't think that you should do it. It is much better to work with clients that have clear job descriptions because they are more professional. It will be much easier to deal with such clients if you meet their expectations.3. Verified Payment MethodIf you are applying for an hourly job, then make sure that the client's payment method is verified. If the payment method isn't verified, then Upwork can't protect you in case the client refuses to pay. In simple words, don't apply for hourly jobs when the payment method is not verified.One more thing that you must remember is that you shouldn't start working on a fixed price job until the client funds the milestone. Funding and assigning the milestone means that the work has been assigned to you and that is your cue to start working. Upwork can't protect you if you start working without the milestone being funded with the agreed amount. So, simply ask your client to fund the milestone before you begin working.4. PriceThe price should suit your skills and experience. There are clients that pay a lot of money, but they are looking for high-quality work for that money. You will have to do some research and find out the price that you can charge. I don't think that you should ever lower the price that you want to charge as long as it is fair according to your research.So, don't apply for jobs that have a low budget. I know you may think that you can work on the job quickly and write whatever you want because of the low budget. If you are thinking like that, then you may get a bad review and hurt your reputation. Even low paying clients have reasonable expectations, so you may end up wasting your time in doing such jobs. Always deliver quality work and charge a fair price for your work.There is a lot of competition for some jobs on Upwork.5. CompetitionIf 50 or more people have already applied to the job, your chances of getting the job are already very low. You may still get the job if you have some skills or qualifications that the other 50 people don't have, but it is very unlikely. So, I advise that you don't apply to jobs where the competition is too much because you might just end up wasting your connects.One may argue that he can get the job by charging a low price, but I am sure that few other people who have applied must have used the same logic. There are people who are willing to write 500 words for \$2 and if you can go lower than that, then it may work. As I have said before, don't lower the price or you will be treated like a low-quality freelance writer.Final ThoughtsUpwork as a freelancing platform can be a source of full-time income or it can be a source of headache and choosing the right jobs can be the difference. I have shared what has worked well for me, and I have been hired more than other people who applied for the same jobs. I don't work full-time because I am a student, but I still charge as much as I want because I know how to apply and deliver quality content.If you have any tips about how to choose the right freelance writing jobs on Upwork, then don't forget to share them through the comments. I wish you luck in your freelance writing journey.This article is accurate and true to the best of the author's knowledge. Content is for informational or entertainment purposes only and does not substitute for personal counsel or professional advice in business, financial, legal, or technical matters.

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