Job Finding Strategies for Writers

I asked my readers — my fellow writers — what the biggest problems standing in the way of earning more money were for them. One of the answers that came back was that a lot of writers struggle with finding writing projects and rresponding to them in a manageable manner..

Finding good writing gigs are a crucial part of your day if you're a writer — but that doesn't mean that the search should take up your entire day. These strategies are geared towards helping you sort through writing opportunities efficiently, so you can get back to your writing.

Image — Flickr user Keith Williamson (http://www.thewilliamsons.me.uk/)

Setting Up a Gig-Hunting Base of Operations

If you're writing for a living, you've got to treat it like a business. That means finding the most efficient way to handle tasks like finding work. When I started out as a writer, I took a fairly haphazard approach to looking for work.

I would spend hours every day pouring over sites that list writing gigs, responding to anything I could, hoping to get just a fraction of the opportunities that I had sent in my information for. With enough effort, I could fill my day with writing work — but that meant that I wasn't doing anything to try to find work during the day. I'd run out of work, start stressing out and chasing down every little lead again. This is not a good way to go about getting writing work.

Search in Just One Place

One of the least efficient parts of the 'system' I described above is how many places I was looking for work. At one point, I had more than one hundred websites bookmarked because they at least occasionally posted writing gigs. I would go through every site in that folder every time I went looking for more work, and it was a time-consuming process. Some of those sites updated only a few times a month and some forced me to sort between blog posts and writing opportunities.

So I made those sites come to me. Rather than opening up a bunch of different websites every day to look for gigs, I set things up so that I was only opening one page. I brought all of the updates for each of those sites together so that I could just look at what was new. If a site didn't have anything new listed, there's no reason to even bother with it.

The key is an RSS reader. You can duplicate this system with email and mailing lists, but you'll spend more time opening each new message and checking through it than you will with looking at new updates in an RSS reader.

You can add the RSS feeds (notifications that a site has been updated) to your RSS reader and then skim through the information from as many sites as you'd like, skipping those gigs that don't fit your needs and narrowing in on the ones you'd like to apply to.
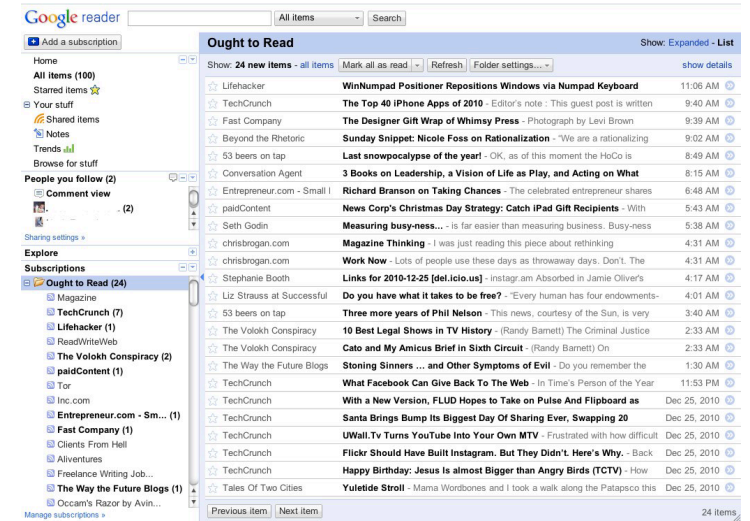
Google Reader, one of the most popular RSS readers.

Real Simple Syndication 101

If you're comfortable using RSS, feel free to skip this section. RSS stands for 'real simple syndication.' It offers a way to read just the updates from a site without visiting that site.

There are many different RSS readers out there — these transform the code that makes up an RSS feed into something you and I can easily read. I use Google Reader (`http://google.com/reader`), because it's easy to set up and it's free. You can use an existing Google account (such as a Gmail address) to log in to Google Reader or you can set up a new account. Once you're logged in, you can start adding RSS feeds.

Google Reader has built in the ability to search for RSS feeds and will be able to detect at least some of the feeds you'll want to add. Click on the 'add a subscription' button in the left corner to start. From there, type in the address of the site you'd like to add.

If Google Reader cannot automatically find the RSS feed for a site you'd like to add, you'll need to visit that site. Look for a link labeled RSS or the RSS icon (an orange square with three white arcs, although colors may vary). By clicking on such a link, you'll be taken to a page full of code. Highlight and copy the address of that page and paste it into Google Reader's 'add a subscription' box. That should bring your feed in, at least in most cases. Unfortunately, not all sites have RSS feeds available.

You can also organize your feeds by creating folders and dragging and dropping them into the order you'd like them to appear in. If, for instance, you read updates from more sites than just those offering writing gigs, you can separate your feeds into different folders.

Sites Without RSS

There are several sites that list new writing gigs but do not have an RSS feed that you can easily add to your RSS reader. My first inclination is to suggest just skipping them — given the number of sites out there, you'll likely have plenty of jobs in your reader to sort through — but there may be specialized sites that you need to access.

You can create an RSS feed for a site that does not have one if you need to. Using services such as FeedYes (`http://www.feedyes.com/`), you can get a list of updates made to any given site. It's not a perfect approach — you can easily wind up with notifications of the most basic updates made to a site, but it's better than nothing and, more importantly, you won't waste your time plugging in sites day after day.

A standard icon symbolizing RSS.

Picking Gigs to Worthy of Response

You don't want to respond to every writing gig you see. Heck, you don't even want to respond to half of them. There are plenty of writing gigs out there on the various job boards that are looking for free work or are even outright scams. Even reading such gigs is a waste of your time. Or, as my husband, the poker player, puts it, "Writing gigs are like poker hands — if you want to win, you have to throw away most of them, because they will just eat up your time and prevent you from taking down the big pots."

That means that making sure you're focusing on opportunities that are actually worth your time is crucial, unless you want to spend all day looking through gig listings. Unfortunately, at first, you may very well wind up spending all day looking at those listings. Learning to recognize the best gigs takes practice, just like anything at else. However, you can speed things up, even while you're waiting for that practice to make perfect.

Identifying the Ideal Gig

In order to sort through the many writing gigs available, you need to have a very clear picture of what you do (and do not want to do). The first question you have to ask is what sort of projects you are willing to take on. There are plenty of projects out there: you can write brochures, blog posts, translations, SEO content and a million other things.

Think about what projects you enjoy — and what you're willing to do in the future. The more projects of one kind that you take on, the easier it becomes to find even more gigs in that speciality: clients see you as an expert just due to the past projects you've worked on.

You also need to consider pay rates. The simplest approach is to set a bottom number that you're willing to accept — anything higher will keep you happy. You likely have an idea of what you need to make in order to pay your bills, but think of that in terms of the projects you are looking to take on. How much do you have to write at a certain rate to keep the roof over your head? It's almost always better to go a little higher than the absolute lowest rate you might consider, if only to keep yourself from burning out.

You should be able to recognize the lowest rate you'll accept on a project in a variety of ways — a per-word rate, a per-hour rate and so on. There is no standard format when it comes to job listings, so you'll see all sorts of different methods of writing.

Keep a running calendar so that you can recognize if a timeline is doable. You'll need to be aware of how long different projects will take, to make sure they'll fit in your calendar — and don't forget to budget plenty of extra time for revisions and communication with your client.

Choosing Your Ideal Gig

If you can focus in on the types of writing gigs that you most enjoy and that are best worth your while, you can make sure that you're only chasing those gigs, rather than wasting time on other projects. These questions can help narrow the field.

1. Are there any particular types of projects that you enjoy more than others? If you could only work on one type of project for the rest of your writing career, what type of writing would you want to do?

2. Are there any types of projects that seem to take forever to complete or that you'd otherwise prefer to avoid?

3. What's the lowest amount you can afford to accept per word? per hour? If you aren't sure about the amount you need to be earning to make your work worth your while, try out Freelance Switch's hourly rate calculator (http://freelanceswitch.com/rates/).

4. How much time do you have available in your calendar right now? How big of a project can you take on without planning to pull an all-nighter or two?

Read through all of the gigs available on a given day before responding to any. I open good opportunities in new tabs so that I can skim through my Google Reader as fast as possible. Once I've read through all of the resources, I go and read specific opportunities more in-depth. If it doesn't meet my criteria in any way, I close the tab and move on to the next one. I also look for potential problems and get rid of anything that doesn't seem quite right. At that point, I'm left with a handful of listings to actually respond to.

You may need to adjust that approach for your own needs, but by grouping tasks in such a way, I've found that I can get through a long list of job postings much master than if I examine each one as I go and respond immediately.

Recognizing What You Don't Want

Your ideal gig gives you something to look for when going through gigs on job boards and you should absolutely stick to it. Throw out anything that doesn't fit your requirements and keep looking.

It may be tempting to consider projects that are close to your requirements, but it isn't worth your while. There are always more writing projects out there, despite any concerns you might have that you need to take anything that comes along. Rather, you want to invest your time in projects that will help you move forward — ones that will help you land better pay rates and earn more. That means ignoring anything that doesn't meet your criteria.

There are plenty of gigs out there that aren't worth your time. You'll see a huge number of postings for projects asking writers to work for exposure, as an intern or for a share of the profits down the road. Such gigs should simply be ignored. Future returns won't put dinner on your table tonight (and they probably won't ever) and you can get better exposure by writing your own blog. There's no good reason to even look at projects that don't come with a price tag. It's your prerogative to write for free — but you should only do so for projects you truly care for, not some listing on a job board trying to get writers to work without compensation.

You need to be able to recognize potential problems and move on as fast as possible, as well. There are more than a few scams out there, especially on classified ad sites like Craigslist. Some scams include sending fraudulent cashier checks or money orders. Others solicit financial information like a bank account number or your PayPal password. The best rule to follow in these situations is 'if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.'

In addition to common scams that target just about anyone doing business on a classified ad site, writers must also be wary of projects where clients disappear when payment is due, often using the work you've provided. Asking for a deposit upfront offers some safety, but it's also important to do some due diligence and run a quick search on anyone you're considering working with.

Scam Warning Signs in Job Listings

There are many potential problems you can run into when looking at job listings. Being able to identify warning signs can let you move on from a potential problem much faster, letting you concentrate on the gigs that will really benefit you.

1. Asks for money to provide you with more information.
2. Says no education or experience is necessary.
3. Refers to the gig as an internship.
4. Describes the project with no details necessary to truly estimate what it would require of you.
5. Quotes unusually high earnings.
6. Describes an unusual payment method.
7. Asks for personal information up front.
8. Requires you to sign up for a mailing list.
9. Asks for a background check.
10. Sounds far too good to be true.

Creating Effective Response Templates

Another key way to speed up the time it takes you to respond to writing gigs is to have templates ready to send out. You don't want to send the exact same email to every editor or client out there, but by having a template, you can give yourself a base to customize as you need. The alternative is to have to write each message from scratch, finding the clips and other details you need each time. Clock yourself a few times going through that process and you'll be able to see the benefits of setting up a few templates.

Start with Your Samples

One of the most important components of your response — no matter what type of gig you're trying to land — is your writing sample package. It's generally best to send several samples of your work; after all, one great sample can be chance, two can be coincidence but three means that you really are that good of a writer.

But which samples you choose to use are important, especially if you're interested in more than one type of writing projects. Ideally, you'll always be in a position to send samples to each prospective client or editor that closely match the sort of project they're asking you to take on — so that they can easily tell that you're up to the challenge. Depending on your background, you may or may not have a wide variety of samples. However, if you organize a few PDFs of your past work that can apply to those sorts of projects you're most likely to be going after, you won't have to hunt up a new sample every time.

Create a Cover Letter Template

Using a template for a cover letter or response email can be a tricky prospect. In most cases, if you're responding to a listing or a submissions page, your cover letter is the only chance you really have to sell yourself — and your best bet comes if you can closely match what the client needs with a description of what you'll do to rock their world (or at least write their project).

But there are some parts of your email that will never change. If you're linking to your website, describing your past projects or describing how your process for taking on a new client goes, you don't need to rewrite those paragraphs every time you write a new cover letter. Create those paragraphs and have them ready to drop in ahead of time.

You may have a few different versions of paragraphs ready to go, depending on the different types of writing projects you're willing to take on. You may have rates paragraphs ready to go for each of your services, or a slightly tweaked description of your background as a writer that helps showcase your abilities for a specific type of project.

It's also worthwhile to create an overlying structure for all of the letters and emails you'll be sending out. These messages don't need to be your next prize winner, but they do need to be well written. That means sticking with a tried and true structure for each one. It doesn't hurt that once you've got the structure down, you'll likely find that you can write each email in a matter of minutes.

The Structure of a Good Response Email

It's important to keep your responses tight and clean. Depending on the job boards you're using to find work, it's not out of the question that the person listing the job will need to sort through a few dozen emails. If there's any typos or other obvious problems, an email will get deleted immediately. If an email is excessively long, it will get deleted immediately. If an email doesn't make perfect sense, it will get deleted immediately. You get the point.

A good structure makes it easy for you to get right to the point. You should immediately address the project, whether that's by pitching a topic or a solution or by describing what you would do to take it on. An additional paragraph about how you'll do things differently from your fellow freelance writers — how you can make the project shine — is usually useful. You'll want to make sure your rates and and timeline issues are laid out, probably in a paragraph of their own. Then tie things up with a description of your background and an introduction of your samples. Your response can be short and sweet, as long as it gets your prospective client exactly the information he needs to choose you.

It's also worth noting that I make a point of including the original job listing with my response, pasted below my signature. If an editor is running multiple listings (which is very possible), doing so can help remind her exactly what I'm responding to. It also gives me an easy way to keep track of what the client's original needs are when I hear back, without my needing to search through a bunch of old listings to try to figure out which one I responded to.

Managing Your Template

In an ideal world, you'll have your template saved in your email in such a way that, with the click of a button, you're sending out a new email — deleting those parts of your template that aren't relevant and customizing those sections you need to. Some email providers allow you to do just that — Gmail, for instance, has a 'canned responses' feature that you can turn on through the Gmail settings.

For other email providers, however, you may need to keep a copy of your template in Microsoft Word or another word processing program and just paste it in whenever appropriate. Whichever option you have, make sure to keep your template updated with new information — such as your rates — so you don't need to try to remember to make such small (but important) changes.

My Response Email Template

This is the basic email format that I have saved as a template for responding to gigs I've found. I'm including it simply as a starting point. Your template should include your own information, after all, and may look very different, depending on the types of gigs you're looking for.

> Mr. X,
>
> I'm interested in the opportunity you listed on Site. com.
>
> I'm a perfect fit for your project, becase...
>
> My relevant experience is...
>
> Samples of my work are available at http://www. thursdaybram.com/see-thursdays-published-work.
>
> I can provide an estimate based on the frequency of posting and the expected length of each post if you'll provide me with those details.
>
> Thank you for your consideration.
> Thursday Bram

Good Places to Find Writing Gigs

There are plenty opportunities to find writing projects online — and as the number of websites grow, the demand for more written content puts even more jobs on those sites. But there are some sites that are better than others. For instance, there are many sites that aggregate gig listings from other locations, reposting them as if they were brand new. Narrowing your focus down to those sites that can actually help you find work is very important.

Online Job Boards

There are hundreds of sites out there, many of which specialize in specific types of work. When you're first building up your listening post, it's worth going through these sites and seeing i they tend to have proejcts that interest you. If, for instance, you're interested in blogging opportunities, subscribing to both general job boards and sites like the ProBlogger Job Board (`http://jobs.problogger.net/`) is a good idea.

It may also be worthwhile to subscribe to the job listings posts on a few of the different freelance writing blogs out there. While these listings tend to be mostly curated, they're also hand-picked, saving you a little work. FreelanceWritingJobs (`http://freelancewritinggigs.com`) and AboutFreelanceWriting (`http://aboutfreelancewriting.com`) both publish listings on a regular basis.

There are a few job boards out there that don't have subscription options. Unless there are a lot of opportunities on such a site that are right up your alley, it's unlikely that checking back manually is going to be really worth your while. You might keep a folder of bookmarks of such sites for days that are slow on those job boards that you can subscribe to, but you'll likely find that you won't check it very often.

Craigslist

Along with other classified ad sites, Craigslist (`http://craigslist.org`) often have many listings for writing and editing projects. While you do have to be wary of the various scams that tend to operate through these sights on a regular basis, you can find a huge variety of writing work.

Because Craigslist is divided into various cities and geographic areas around the country (and even the world), picking up the listings for a few different cities can be a good choice. Your own local area Craigslist is generally a good idea to subscribe to — there are always clients who prefer to work with someone local and there are often writing projects that need a local viewpoint. It's also useful to subscribe to the Craigslist feeds for writing projects in Los Angeles and New York City — two cities with industries that tend to need written content on a regular basis. It may also be worthwhile to subscribe to the San Francisco listings, because San Francisco is the default location for Craigslist.

Websites Listing Writing Gigs

While this list is by no means exhaustive, it will give you a starting point for looking for sites that offer up writing gigs on a regular basis.

- Craigslist (`http://craigslist.org`)
- ProBlogger Job Board (`http://jobs.problogger.net`)
- FreelanceWritingJobs (`http://freelancewritinggigs.com`)
- AboutFreelanceWriting (`http://aboutfreelancewriting.com`)
- BloggingPro (`http://www.bloggingpro.com/jobs/`)
- PoeWar (`http://jobs.poewar.com/`)
- FreelanceSwitch Job Board (`http://jobs.freelanceswitch.com/`)
- All in 1 Freelance (`http://www.allin1freelance.com/`)
- Funds for Writers (`http://www.fundsforwriters.com/`)
- Writers Weekly (`http://writersweekly.com/`)
- The Write Jobs (`http://www.writejobs.com/`)
- MediaBistro (`http://www.mediabistro.com/joblistings/`)
- BloggerJobs.biz (`http://www.bloggerjobs.biz/`)
- Journalism Jobs (`http://www.journalismjobs.com/`)
- Places for Writers (`http://www.placesforwriters.com/`)
- Aquent (`http://www.aquent.com/`)
- Matador Travel (`http://matadortravel.com/bounty-board/current`)
- Creative Hotlist (`http://www.creativehotlist.com/`)
- UC Berkley Journalism Department (`http://journalism.berkeley.edu/jobs/`)
- Media Kitty (`http://www.mediakitty.com/`)
- the Boss Group (`http://www.thebossgroup.com/`)
- Media Job Market (`http://www.mediajobmarket.com/`)
- Freelance Venue (`http://www.freelancevenue.com/`)
- MPA (`http://jobs.magazine.org/search.cfm`)
- PoynterOnline (`http://careers.poynter.org/jobs`)
- Whisper Jobs (`http://www.ed2010.com/jobs/whisperjobs`)
- Writerfind (`http://www.writerfind.com/freelance_jobs/`)
- Sunoasis Jobs (`http://www.sunoasis.com/`)
- Writing Career (`http://www.writingcareer.com/`)
- FreelanceWriting.com (`http://www.freelancewriting.com/`)

On Craigslist, there are two sections where writing gigs routinely appear: 'writing gigs' and 'writing / editing jobs'. It's useful to look at both. The 'jobs' category is supposed to be more for full-time jobs, but contract and freelance opportunities do show up. It's alot better to rely on information in the 'jobs' section because, while posting a 'gig' is free, it costs to post a 'job' listing in most cities.

Bid Sites

There are a lot of writers making a decent living off of bid sites, such as Elance (`http://www.elance.com`) and Odesk (`http://www.odesk.com`). There aren't always a lot of high paying gigs on such sites, but there's always a large quantity of work. They can also provide the benefits of easier collection of the money you've earned and some even offer perks like the ability to buy into a company health insurance plan if you work enough through them.

However, I don't find work on bid sites. It's a personal preference: I don't like the controls that such sites place on freelancers, such as allowing clients to request that freelancers install software on their own computers that let clients see what a freelancer is doing. If you're comfortable with the requirements of the various bid sites out there, it may be worthwhile to use them to find writing jobs. It's a personal choice.

Where You Can Expect Trouble

There are a growing number of sites that have adopted 'alternative' methods of making money off of providing writing projects. Where bid sites take a fee from project fees and job boards rely on fees for listing jobs or advertising, there are sites out there with different approaches that tend to be less helpful. Simply avoiding such sites is a good policy.

One of the more common approaches is charging writers money in order to be able to look at gig listings. There are a few legitimate sites that take this approach, such as FreelanceSwitch (`http://jobs.freelanceswitch.com/jobs`), which charges $7 per month for access to the contact information associated with each listing. But there are far more that take advantage of freelance writers, charging a high monthly rate and offering recycled job listings for your trouble. Thoroughly check out any site that asks a fee for access — just type the site's name, along with the word 'scam' into Google, and you'll usually get a very clear picture of just what's going on.

Bid Sites

- Elance (`http://www.elance.com`)
- Odesk (`http://www.odesk.com`)
- Freelancer.com (`http://www.freelancer.com`)
- iFreelance (`http://www.ifreelance.com`)
- Guru (`http://www.guru.com`)

There are also quite a few sites that have you essentially submit work on spec: in the Yahoo! Contributor Network (formerly Associated Content) (`http://www.associatedcontent.com/`) or Triond (`http://www.triond.com/`) or a dozen other sites, you can submit just about any type of content you'd like. You'll get a low payment based on page views and advertising revenue. Most writers are lucky to break five dollars for that payment. These sites also tend to offer exclusive assignments, letting writers compete for projects with an actual payout (although you almost always have to complete the full project before you find out if you'll get paid). For writers who actually want to make a full time living, these sites are a hard way to go about it. There are, of course, a few people out there who manage it, but for most writers, there are easier ways to earn a living.

Alternatives to Job Board Strategies

While the various online job boards have become one of the easiest ways to find writing gigs, they are not necessarily the best for the long term — depending on your goals as a writer. When considering your gig-hunting strategies, it's worth considering a few things: first, while job boards offer gigs in quantity, they may not offer quality. Pay rates trend lower on job boards than the opportunities you may find by marketing yourself to clients and while that's okay when you're first starting out, as you move forward you'll want to make sure that you're earning what your experience is worth worth.

Personally, while I still check a few job boards regularly, I've found that very little of my work comes from them at this point. You can expect an evolution in the way you find projects over the years — especially if you make the time to market yourself regularly.

Publication Submissions

Job boards may be a great place to pick up writing gigs, but you should never discount submitting your work directly to publications. Assuming that articles and similar writing projects are your preferred work, you may even pick up more work with a good submission strategy.

The crucial first step is building up a list of publications to submit to. There are plenty of resources out there that can guide you to a giant database of listings — but you have to sort through them and create your own list of publications that your writing will fit well with. A simple way to do this is to use a tool like Evernote (`http://www.evernote.com`), that allows you to 'clip' and save specific web pages as you're browsing. (I discuss how to use Evernote to collect ideas for writing in 'New Ideas from Old Content'.) Just create a notebook specifically for submission pages and start saving those of any site or print publication you might want to write for in that notebook. You can tag individual pages with anything you'd like. I'd suggest tagging each submission page you save with the topic of the publication in question. That way, when you have an idea you want to send in, you can simply search for a given tag and get a list of places to submit it to.

One of the difficulties of a submission strategy is that you keep needing to come up with new ideas to send out to publications. However, I've already released a full ebook on that topic, so I'm not going into it here. Please refer to 'New Ideas from Old Content' for more information (`http://www.thursdaybram.com/freeebooks`).

Similarly to a job board strategy, you also need to create your own guidelines to help you to choose which publications to query as well as to create your own templates for query letters and responses in order to speed up the process.

Networking, Online and Off

The best projects (at least in terms of pay) almost always come through word of mouth or networking. That's because if a client has a project with a big budget, she'd almost always prefer to entrust it to someone with a great reputation. Of course, you can't just jump into landing these sorts of gigs — you have to build the groundwork.

First, you have to build up a dynamite reputation: make sure that you're wowing the clients you pick up from job boards and other strategies. You have to start small before you can reach for some of these other opportunities. If you can truly knock the socks off of a client, they're not only likely to bring you more work, but to also talk about you to other people in need of a writer.

From there, you want to start building up your own network. Ideally, you want to be where your best clients will be. For some clients, that means going to in-person networking events and for others that means going to specific sites, such as LinkedIn. If you can work up a clear picture of your client, such as where he typically looks for answers to his questions, you can get ahead of the game.

Get involved with networking opportunities. I spend quite a bit of my time on Twitter every day. In addition to just generally being there and talking about interesting things with people active on the site, I keep an eye out for people who fall into my client profile. I've created a Twitter list of people who fall into that category as I find them and everyday, I check that list for questions about blogging (the sort of project I prefer to take on for clients). When I find those questions, I answer them — at the very least, I send a link to a resource that I've written and will help someone work through their question. That way, I'm connected to a prospective client who has already seen my expertise in action. I've found quite a few gigs through Twitter and my networking efforts there.

You can put similar strategies into play with any networking site, from a forum to Facebook. The secret is being helpful and seeking out connections who you would like to work with.

Networking in person can be harder, but it's even better at converting potential clients into actual clients. You need to have a clear idea of how you help clients — not just a standard elevator pitch of what you do, but an explanation of the benefits of working with you.

Commit to regularly attending events in your area if that's where you know ideal clients will be. Once a year is not enough to cement you in their minds as the person to hire when they need a writer. In most cases, it takes at multiple instances of contact (introduction, email, chance meeting, etc.) to make sure that a prospective client will remember you when the time comes for them to call in a writer on a project.

Choose What Works for You

Consider all of these strategies along with your job board strategies. You have to find what works best for you and for finding the sort of projects you enjoy working on. Don't be afraid to tweak your strategies in the future, either. You never know what new tools might make the whole process easier to manger or if you'll want to change up the type of projects you want to work on.

A Starting Point for Finding Work

Hopefully, this ebook has made it easier for you to find and land the writing gigs you need to move your writing business forward. I would encourage you to try to add just one of these activities into your routine. If you're feeling overwhelmed, just try one. See how it goes — you may be surprised!

I've made a personal commitment to helping build resources that make running a writing business easier and I hope you'll sign up for my email list so that I can keep you updated on what new resources I'm coming up with. You can sign up for the newsletter here (`http://www.thursdaybram.com/ebooknewsletter`).

Thursday Bram is …

I am a full-time writer, and have been (with a two-week exception) since graduating from college. I've written for CNET, GigaOm and quite a few other websites. One of my passions is writing about writing, mostly because I like knowing why what I do works. I've even managed to write articles about writing for publications as diverse as the *Novel and Short Story Writers' Market* and *Home Education Magazine*. You can hear all about my writing experiences on my site (`http://www.thursdaybram.com`).
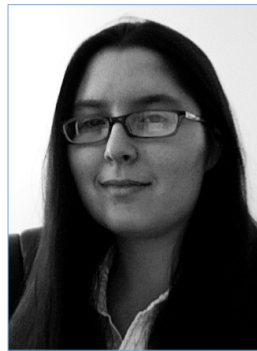
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