

Thinking Outside the Book (Sophie Littlefield)

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOOK

Sophie Littlefield - August 2, 2008

WHAT MARKETS ARE RIGHT FOR ME?

List professional skills, including jobs you've held in the past:

List your hobbies:

Name three interesting people you know (celebrities, leaders, or people who make a difference):

What genres do you enjoy reading, besides romance?

What organizations and clubs do you belong to? (include religious groups, service organizations, kids' schools, alma maters, neighborhood groups, etc.)

What issues do you care about deeply?

PROS AND CONS OF ALTERNATIVE WRITING MARKETS

<i>Market</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
Newspaper	Local papers open to new voices; Op-Ed welcomes contributors	No or low payment
Newsletter	Professional organizations welcome contributors; payment possible	Specialized knowledge required
Magazine	Huge variety of markets; practice research and interview skills	Pay ranges from nothing to significant; large markets difficult to break into
Chapbook	You can publish your own; organizations welcome help	Limited distribution
Article Reprint	No additional investment - you've already written the article	Need to be organized to track submissions
Book Review	Excellent practice in concise writing; free arcs or books; broaden your reading	Can be difficult to break into; generally no or low payment
Non-fiction book	Name recognition, resume builder, payment	Time commitment is high; consider co-authoring
Confession short fiction	Great training in the form; several monthly markets; reasonable payment	No byline; long response times
Short fiction in other genres	Name recognition; Stretch yourself as a writer; explore themes for future books; many electronic markets	Time commitment can be high; electronic markets have their own issues; low pay
Web site content	Good training for your future web site; improve your concise writing; develop blogging skills	Can be addictive! Watch time commitment

RESOURCES – Just a few to get you started!

Market	
Newspaper	www.worldwidefreelance.com/writing.htm
Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.nlf.com/html/articles.html • www.newsletterwritingtips.com
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual <u>Writer's Market</u> from <u>Writer's Digest Books</u> (the big book!) • <u>Writer's Market</u> online (free 30-day trial): www.writersmarket.com • Ruberg, Michelle, ed. <u>Writer's Digest Handbook of Magazine Article Writing</u>. <u>Writer's Digest Books</u>, 2004. • Bukofsky, Sheree. <u>Complete Idiot's Guide to Publishing Magazine Articles</u>. Alpha, 2000. • Cool, Lisa Collier. <u>How to Write Irresistible Query Letters</u>. <u>Writer's Digest Books</u>, 2002.
Chapbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.orrt.org/teachers/chapbook.html (includes .doc templates)
Article Reprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Writer's Market</u> • www.aboutfreelancewriting.com/articles/marketing/reprints.htm • www.right-writing.com/checks.html
Book Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/bookrev/ • www.librarything.com • www.theromancereader.com • www.romancejunkies.com • www.likesbooks.com • www.curledup.com
Non-fiction book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larson, Michael. <u>How to Write a Book Proposal</u>. <u>Writer's Digest Books</u>, 2004. • Whalin, Terry W. <u>Book Proposals That Sell</u>. <u>Write Now Publications</u>, 2005.
Confession short fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>True Confessions, True Romance, True Story, True Love</i> • Dorchester Media: www.truesonline.com • Length: 2,000 to 14,000 words • \$.03/word • response time: 6 months to 1 year
Short fiction in other genres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ralan.com focus on sci-fi; includes mystery, literary, horror, erotica; contest listings • www.duotrope.com all genres; excellent searchable database; free submission tracker
Web site content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic website resources available with most connectivity providers • www.blogspot.com • www.livejournal.com • www.blogger.com • www.wordpress.com