

Write & Publish Your E-Book, From Start to Finish

Lesson One

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Introduction

This is lesson one in a series of articles on writing & publishing an e-book. The series originally appeared in the "A FREELANCER'S LIFE" e-zine, and will be published as an entire e-book course. Until then, I hope you enjoy the techniques I present. What's more, I can guarantee you will write & publish your e-book if only you follow along with each lesson. Future lessons will be available for download in PDF format at:

<http://www.geocities.com/davidware2002/>

Lesson 1 - Getting Started

Don't be confused by the title of this lesson. I am not going to bore you with definitions or technicalities or anything of the sort. And it doesn't matter if you have been previously published or not, or where you are with your project. Today is the first day of the rest of your professional writing career. Remember that, and write like it.

Too often, we allow life to happen while we put away our writing. There are many reasons for this, and I am going to help you overcome those reasons today.

I know one of my biggest blocks when I first started writing was: "What if I can't write? I can't be a writer unless I can write." This is complete & utter nonsense.

The fact is, you are a writer. Everyday, you write thousands of words of some sort, so you are a writer. Some of you may only journal. That's fine - you are a writer. Others may be avid letter (or in this technological age, email) writers. Again, you are a writer. It doesn't matter who sees your writing, if anyone! That is a choice you will make when you are finished.

The second block I had was getting ahead of myself. An idea would come, and I would begin expanding on it. Before I knew it, I had an idea for a book. That's good though, right? Not necessarily.

Becoming too involved with your future plans tends to bog you down. After all, writing a book is a daunting task.

To overcome this, start small. Don't think about writing an entire manuscript. Forget about an outline and goal dates. Instead, think about a sub-topic. Here's an example:

Let's say you want to write a book about writing (pretty convenient, huh?). There is so much that could go into it. There's query writing, researching markets, interviewing other writers. It really does seem like an impossible task.

Instead of sitting down with intentions to write the book, sit down and brainstorm. Come up with at least 10 -15 different sub-topics about writing a book (or whatever your subject will be about).

Don't spend too much time on this, however, as it ultimately takes you away from what is important - writing. The amount of time you spend on brainstorming will depend on the overall subject & how in-depth you want to get, but I would venture to say that half an hour to an hour would be sufficient. If you think of something later that you want to add, you can always add it.

By the way, this also applies to fiction writing. Instead of brainstorming sub-topics, you should be thinking in terms of scenes. What will my character do in this situation? What are the consequences? Where will this lead the character(s)? I think you get the idea. If not, don't stress. I'll cover it a little more in-depth in an upcoming lesson.

OK, now comes the fun part. Start brainstorming.

Once you have finished brainstorming, put the sub-topics in order. You may feel more confident placing them in chronological order. This is especially true if you are writing fiction. But put them in an order that makes sense to YOU. This will serve as a very rough outline.

I can guarantee that you will come out of this course with a finished, polished & marketable work, if only you follow along with each lesson, so get to it. Remember that it doesn't matter who you are writing for or what you are writing. No one has to see it, if you don't want them to.

That about wraps it up for this lesson. Next lesson, we WILL write the first chapter of our books. Until then, keep writing...

About the author:

David Ware is a successful freelance writer with over 7 years of experience. His articles have appeared in National, regional and local publications across the U.S. He can be contacted at warehouse@gvii.net for assignments.