



A beginning writer bitches about the publishing industry

The following article is written by an angry beginning writer who is bitching about the publishing industry. The writer wishes to become a highly paid freelancer. What would you advise this writer?

I just finished reading "[Why freelance writers agree to work for almost no money](#)," and I couldn't help but think, "Hey that's me!"

The problem is that things aren't really any better outside the web world. I got front-page headline on an investigate (sic) report (900 word story) on home invasions (The ____ Record—*location deleted*) and the best they could offer me was 35\$!

They claimed that the paper almost folded several times, readership is down, advertisement is not covering costs and they regularly pay their writers 25\$ a story so I should be happy with what I got. UGhhhhh! Does that make sense or am I being taken for a ride?

I'm new to journalism (though I have been writing—*yes, for free*—for (*website name deleted*) for over a year now and have spent years working on novels/poetry/short stories of my own.

Also, I've recently had some fantastic scoops (and subsequent interviews) from within the music biz...and still I can barely get anyone to even look at my articles let alone buy them. I'm talking artists that played at The Newport Folk Fest, have their songs featured on t.v. episodes of well-watched programs—not my cousin's garage band.

The hardest part is finding contact info, many music sites have a generic contact form that doesn't allow you to reach a specific editor or attach any documents...how are you supposed to hook in the person with a simple pitch? I find you can't fully appreciate that something is newsworthy unless you read it first...a pitch is just not enough to get past editors biases against the artist or the writer they've never heard of...

Also, many places don't even give you an answer, they just don't respond. Is that proper in the business? Is there no etiquette?

What kind of animals are we dealing with where a simple "No thanks, we'll pass on the story," is too much to ask?

Is it improper to write back with a request for a response or does that just make you look more desperate?

Are there "rules" and if so, what are they? I'm green, plain and simple, but very willing to work hard at learning the ropes.

Any words of advice to offer me on any of the issues I brought up?

Ok, readers - do you have advice? Do you concur? Do you disagree?

Here's my response

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