

## Ten Winning Habits of Frequently Published Writers Part 2

Contributed by Earma Brown  
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Copy the ten winning habits of frequently published writers and see your own book in print! This second article in a two part series gives you the edge you need to get published.

### Ten Winning Habits of Frequently Published Writers, Part 2

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#### How to get published more!

Are you ready to sign off on your first project or publish more of what you have already written? Have you been wondering who will publish your work? The publishing industry is changing in the new millennium and doesn't appear ready to stop changing. It is estimated that in the next 10 years, 50 percent of all books will be self-published or published by smaller presses. Even so, it should not exempt us from the pursuit of excellence in our craft through sound writing rules and business etiquette. With that said the way to more published writing credits is basically the same as Anne Wayman says, "Write well and write often." If you want to get published more by industry respected magazines and even enter into the competition for the attention of traditional book publishers, you may want to examine some of your writing habits. There are some habits those writers who consistently get published share. If you want to join the winner's circle of frequently published writers develop these habits:

#### Habit #6 Do your own dirty work; make your editor's life easy

Professional minded authors don't expect the editor to do all of their editing, rewriting and spell checking their work. Many authors seem to think their writing talent should out-weigh ever having to rewrite, fix grammar or spelling errors. Remember you are forming your trust factor and creditability from day one. If you make an editor feel as though she has to triple-check your facts and rewrite portions of your work because its always turned in sloppy she won't favorably anticipate your next project. Do your own dirty work and make your editor expect excellent work when your projects come across her desk.

#### Habit #7 Read avidly

Winning writers are avid readers. It's a scientific fact that most avid readers are prolific writers. Well maybe not scientific but it's a known fact that reading other people's work makes you a better writer. If you want to become a better writer or better yet a frequently published one make reading one of your habits. For sure read what you enjoy and are most interested in but don't forget to expand your horizons; read a broad range of literature. Read non-fiction, stories, read poetry, read newspapers. I read a couple of marketing and internet related articles per day. But I also fit novels, magazines and newspapers somewhere in there during the week. Don't feel you have the time? Take a book or magazine along with you to your sitting/waiting appointments. Long commute? What else is there to do with your mind but read? Fit more reading in your schedule and become a successful writer that editors are looking for.

## Habit #8 Cultivate your skills, forever

Frequently published authors are life long learners. They have a strong desire to develop and cultivate their skills. They believe in forever learning and improving their craft. With this attitude you receive a lot more of the "Yes, let's publish it!" Start building your writer's library with the basic style book such as *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White (Allyn & Bacon). Then make it an annual tradition to read and brush up on your basics to keep improving. Remember excellence is a habit. Glean from the field of writing and your colleagues who are improving. Subscribe to writer magazines like *Writer's Digest*, attend conferences, take a class, and be active in your writing group. Make it a habit to develop your craft and enter the circle of frequently published writers sooner.

## Habit #9 Think investment

A lot of writers wish these two responsibilities would go away or at least someone else take up the task of doing it for them. The truth is you have to submit and you have to promote. Consider it an investment of your time and effort with rewards waiting just around the corner. You have the most passion and interest in your work. So accept it, relax, submit and promote to enjoy the journey of seeing your name in print more and more. Regularly published writers submit their work and if it comes back with a rejection letter, they look for improvements and send it out again. They develop a cycle - a habit of while one article, short story, book project is out, they write something else and send it. They keep sending until they have 5, 10, and 20 circulating.

## Habit #10 Target your reader and audience

Learn as much as you can about the demographics of the potential reader for whatever it is you are writing. Widely published writers study their potential reader. Some even sketch their reader in word or drawing and post it on their computer so they can write directly to them. The widely published writer find out what gender is she or he? What education level? They try to discover if they are conservative or liberal? What do they like and dislike? What will this person enjoy reading? What other interests will they likely have? Keep this reader in mind as you pitch your idea to the editor and especially when you write your project. In the beginning, the acceptances are slow and sporadic for the successful and unsuccessful writer alike. But the difference is the successful writer keeps submitting. On a regular basis they see their work published because of their investment and persistence. Start with 1-3, keep submitting, and be persistent until you are invited into the winner's circle of frequently published writers.

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