

**Las Vegas Quill Keepers Lesson 4: Get a Job****By Cathe Jones, ([cathejones.com](http://cathejones.com))**

There were a few dozen emails this week about the last few lessons. “Cathe, I know I should write articles, and do interviews, but I would really like a full time job as a writer.” “Do I have to write for periodicals to be considered a professional writer?” There are dozens of job titles for those seeking to place the “WRITER” shingle over their doors.

Any place that has more than ten employees probably needs to tap into a writer’s skills for promotional materials, human resources manuals, or even company newsletters. The larger the company is, the bigger the need for writers. The most difficult market to break into is in Advertising, and the easiest is Human Resources. The goal for some is to find a stable job, offering benefits, and set hours.

Marketing jobs are great entry points for those seeking a more stable writing environment. Not only are you expected to creatively talk about your company’s products in print, but may take on organizational meetings, presentations, newsletters, corporate culture documentations, and a myriad of other roles.

Another entry-level door to knock on would be in the Human Resources department. Corporations thrive on the enticing advertisements placed by an HR representative. The company expects to see a highly polished shine on any request for new employees. Orientation Materials, recruitment documents, and again, company newsletters come from the employments offices of organizations.

If you want a long-term position, think about writing training materials. Businesses exist with full time training divisions, and the need for

updated education documentation is enormous. The Forbes 500 lists one of the key reasons that documentation specialists exist is to keep businesses and the staff ahead of the competition. Life Insurance, Technological, and Fabrications all need to have employees up on laws, production methods, and client needs. Training materials exist as stand-alone multimedia applications, web sites, manuals, and in course materials. All of these require the expertise of a well-stated writer.

Non-profit organizations are in dire need for grant writers. The task of grants isn't one of creativity, but it can be a researcher's dream position. Not only does the writer need to gather and assemble financial information, but she needs to succinctly explain the need the non-profit has to others by making the corporation appear as the most important organization of its kind, and why. Grant writing is a specific art, and those who choose to go this route should consider courses first. Several granting entities offer workshops prior to deadlines, and it's wise to check into these.

Proofreaders are in demand in many locations. Not only are they highly sought by periodicals, but publishing companies also beg for them. Companies that focus on websites, or online education seek Proofers for all of the materials presented since a misspelled word could lose a client. It is unlikely that you will write much if you're editing, but you can step up into a writing role once you've proved yourself.

The Advertising Business is unique. You may expect it to be a profession filled with nepotism and soap opera-like dramas. This is a factual assumption. Out of all of the professions relating to writing, this may be one of the most cutthroat, comparing only to that of the Entertainment Industry. There are few exceptions to the rule. You MUST know someone to get into the door as a copywriter for advertising print or scripts. The

best way to do this without the benefit of friends or family is to become an intern. Internships are abundant, only because the burn out rate for this job is severe.

The Entertainment Industry is a subject unto itself, but there are methods to enter into this field without plastic surgery, or nepotism. The first step in getting into television writing often comes from the Newsrooms of local radio and television. The newsroom offers you an opportunity to meet people in a way that no other profession could. When I first entered into writing after a break of five years, I started as an intern at WBCN in Boston. I worked writing copy for the news, traffic, and weather. From there, I moved into writing stories for local papers, and was asked to be a regular off-air writer for WCVB-TV. The General Manager heard my work, and asked me to do regular pieces on-air. Due to physical limitations, this never came to fruition, but I know firsthand, the fairy tale there can come true.

Technical writing keeps more wordsmiths fed than just about any other job. The world demands technology, and for every electronic device, a tech manual, a user's manual, a promotional sheet, and far more exists. Technical writers command a fairly high salary in some instances. Very few people take on this particular path. Cisco points out that when they find writers who are not only able to understand the verbiage of the technology, but who are also clear in their descriptions when writing manuals, that they do anything and everything to retain the scribe. In 2001, one technical writer for Microsoft was awarded with a new car just so she'd sign on for one more year.

Think there couldn't possibly be another place to write? Think again. Sales teams, auto dealerships, public speakers, convention centers, and even churches require the skills of a full time writer. Sit back a moment

and look at your desk. For every item there, a sales report was written. Each pen exists because a meeting was held. That mouse you bought required not only technical manuals, but also “how-to” inserts for the packaging. The packaging needed writers. Almost everything you see, wear, eat, or use required writers.

Full time jobs for writers exist. In fact, it doesn't take much to find them, except patience. If you want to reach out and grab one of these positions, then you can begin with some of the sites listed below. I didn't include Monster, or CareerBuilder, but of course they are fine sites for searching.

DICE: A place for Technological Writing Jobs

<http://www.dice.com/>

Craigslist: The American Bulletin Board

<http://www.craigslist.org>

PoeWar: A place for writers

<http://poewar.com/jobs/>

Sologig: Allows Freelancers and Full timers to search

<http://www.sologig.com>