

13 Ways

to Get the Writing Done

FASTER

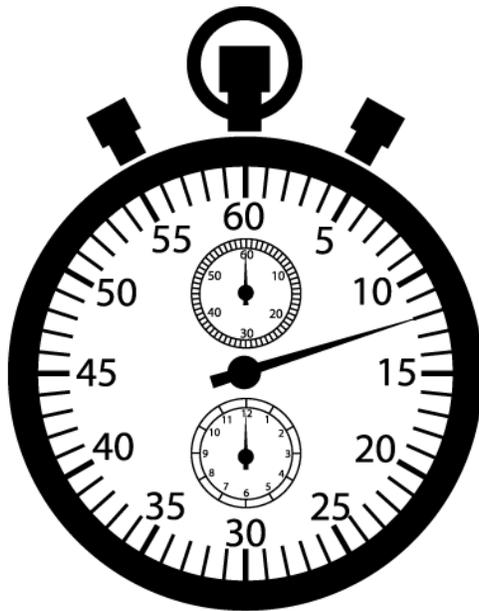
Two pro writers share their secrets



By Carol Tice & Linda Formichelli

13 Ways to Get the Writing Done Faster:

Two pro writers share their secrets



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Introduction

Have you been wondering how you can be a more efficient writer? It'd be great to get your writing done fast and have more time for friends, family, and leisure time, eh?

We hear these questions a lot – so we wrote this ebook to give you an inside look at how we crank out a ton of writing in a short time.

Who are we, and why did we write this ebook?

Carol Tice



Hi there – I'm Carol Tice. Just to give you some background, I've been a full-time freelance writer since 2005. I was a staff writer for 12 years before that, and freelanced for several years at the beginning of my career, too. I've earned more every year since I returned to freelancing in '05, straight through the downturn, hitting six figures in 2011. I write the Make a Living Writing blog (<http://www.makealivingwriting.com>). Magazines I've written for include Entrepreneur, Alaska Airlines, and Seattle Magazine, and corporate clients include Costco and American Express.

Linda Formichelli



I'm Linda Formichelli. I've been a full-time freelance writer since 1997 and earn a living working under 25 hours per week. I've written for magazines like Redbook, USA Weekend, Health, Writer's Digest, and WebMD, and businesses like Sprint, OnStar, Pizzeria Uno, and Wainwright Bank. I'm also the co-author of *The Renegade Writer: A Totally Unconventional Guide to Freelance Writing Success* and run the Renegade Writer Blog (<http://www.therenegadewriter.com>).

We also both serve as mentors in Freelance Writers Den, a support and learning community for writers looking to grow their income.

We get a lot of questions from writers in the Den's forums. A lot of those questions go something like this:

“How do you fit it all in?”

“How do you balance family time with writing?”

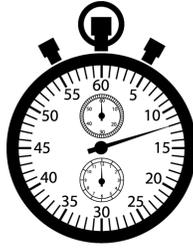
“It takes me eight hours to write each blog post. How can I speed up?”

To answer these questions, the two of us got together to share our writing shortcuts – the methods we've perfected over the years that help us cut the bull and get the writing done, so we can have fun and get more family time.

In this ebook, you get to listen in on that conversation – we came up with our 13 biggest tips for getting the writing done faster.

Members of Freelance Writers Den got to listen to this chat, and asked us some great followup questions, so we've included those at the end of this ebook. We cover some of the down-and-dirty shortcuts that you don't want to take in that section, too.

Read on for our quick guide to how to speed up your writing process...



Here are our 13 best tips for faster writing:

1. Write in a niche.

CAROL: When you stick to one topic or even several, it really helps you write faster. You kind of know where all the bodies are buried. You know where all the good sources are, which university has that awesome think-tank on that topic.

When I used to write about retail all the time, for instance, I would tap one university's retail institute in Texas, over and over. When you're not having to reinvent that sourcing and study-data wheel with every single story, that saves a huge amount of time.

Writing in a niche often means you have multiple publications where you write on a similar topic. That means you can re-spin one interview with one source into more than one different market. You can slant that idea three different ways and resell it. But having to source each story from scratch because it's a new topic every time is a really big time suck. I'm just saying.

LINDA: Like you were saying, you can have several niches. My niches are business and health, plus a few others. You want to not be a total Jack-of-all-trades.

2. Keep your interviews short.

LINDA: I think a lot of writers tend to ask every question on a topic they can think of because they're afraid they're not going to get everything they need. Then they have trouble reining in their sources, so the interviews just go on and on. They don't even get a lot of useable material out of it, so it's a really big waste of time.

My interviews tend to take 20 to 30 minutes. One thing I do is I let people know how long the interview will be, so they know what to expect. For example, I'll tell the source upfront, 'I'll only need 20 minutes of your time.' Or, 'I've scheduled from 1:00 to 1:30 for this interview.' That way you don't need to worry about cutting somebody off if you get what I call the Rambling Rhonda. You have no problem cutting her off because you say, 'Okay, we only have five minutes left. I don't want to waste your valuable time. So, let's get back on topic.'

The last question I always ask a source is, 'Is it okay if I get back in contact with you if I need more information as I'm writing this?' They always say yes. That way you can feel reassured that

if you're writing the article and you're missing something you can call that person and get another quick quote.

CAROL: When I was a staff writer at the Puget Sound Business Journal, there was this one cub reporter... every interview he did, he would go out and talk to the person in person. And he would be there for hours. Then later, the source would call the publisher to complain that they had totally wasted their time and it ended up being two lines in a story! People were pissed off.

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