

Writing for a Living

August 2021

Songwriter, press secretary, literary agent, book publicist, magazine editor, reporter, researcher, television writer, advertising copywriter, lexicographer--these are all examples of careers for those who love the written word. **Content editor, content strategist, web editor and social media coordinator, technical writer and grant writer** are other specialties. Here are some potential **employer types**:

Local Publishers hire editors, reviewers, proofreaders, etc. and make it possible for people to make a living as authors. Local publishing houses include Ten Speed Press in Berkeley (now part of Crown Publishing House <https://crownpublishing.com/archives/imprint/ten-speed-press>) and www.nolo.com in Berkeley and Pleasanton. Nolo is now part of Internet Brands, a comprehensive web service for leading consumer brands. Positions at their Pleasanton location include digital marketing assistant, line editor and legal editor. Other potential employers can be found at www.yellowpages.com by choosing "Publisher" as Employer Type and then selecting various nearby cities.

Printed publications also hire media analysts. The position requires knowledge of syndicated research studies. Supporting advertising sales growth with data is the focus. Conducting research, analyzing & interpreting data (including computer analyses) and writing sales-oriented summaries of research are the job functions. Professional associations hire editors, communication managers and editorial assistants to create and proofread their print and online materials for members.

Newspapers hire newspaper copy editors, reporters and editors. Try local newspapers such as the Mercury News (www.mercurynews.com) and San Francisco Chronicle (sfchronicle.com)

Small magazine publishers have copy editor positions that require familiarity with AP & Chicago styles, Quark & research/fact checking. They also pay freelancers for articles submitted. A sampling of the many local magazines would include Mother Jones (www.motherjones.com), San Francisco Magazine (modernluxurymedia.com), Diablo Magazine (www.diabломag.com), and Sunset Magazine (www.sunset.com). Hub editor is a crucial job function and possible job title.

Book publishers hire digital media assistants and story editors and those with knowledge of social media channels to aid in the creation of online electronic products in addition to editorial assistants in the print division. Pearson Education ([Create new possibilities with Pearson. Start learning today.](#)) with a presence in San Francisco has been known as an educational publisher. It now sees itself as a digital coursework solutions provider. Openings now show a preference for knowledge of systems and content delivery.

The government and public policy research organizations hire analysts who do research and analysis to develop policy proposals. Check State of California (CalCareers) for staff services analyst positions. . An example of a private company involved in policy analysis is Mason Tillman Associates Ltd. (www.masontillman.com) in Oakland. Nonprofits such as the Public Health Institute (www.phi.org) hire Research Associates.

Businesses may hire content associates to help create product presentation on their website. They also hire communications/web associates, a job combining writing, public relations, consumer products marketing, desktop publishing and web design skills. Jobs in Public relations and Public affairs require background in technical aspects of print and audio/visual production as well as

excellent writing & public speaking skills. **Companies** that do extensive internal training hire instructional designers to create and test their training programs. This frequently involves Internet applications. Companies that have call centers may hire customer support content developers to write or rewrite the templates used by their customer service representatives for email and help desk customer support. Law firms and legal departments hire legal researchers and paralegals.

Educational Institutions hire instructional application administrators who develop multimedia and other training materials and support online training efforts. They may also work closely with library staff on catalogue functionality.

Nonprofits hire for positions such as program analyst, research officer or grant writer. Check [Nonprofit Jobs | Nonprofit Careers | Work for Good](#), www.idealists.org and [Impact Opportunity](#)

Advertising agencies need media research assistants in their media planning group. This is a high data position developing customized flowcharts using advanced Excel & Access to tell a story about topics such as consumer demographics or lifestyle or TV ratings.

Marketing communication services companies need employees with skills in business writing, proofreading and researching using online databases and social media for marketing assistant positions. Such positions involve media research, order trafficking and sales support.

Online publishers are a new breed of employer service. Blurb www.blurb.com headquartered in San Francisco has software that allows people to create personalized books at very low cost. [Upwork | The World's Work Marketplace for Freelancing](#) is an **online staffing platform** for online writing and translation contingent work

Software companies and **manufacturers of technical products** hire technical writers who possess computer and media knowledge in addition to skill in using the English language as a communication and teaching tool. Go to [Glassdoor Job Search | Find the job that fits](#) for job leads.

Self-employed writers take on projects such as writing the stories of senior citizens, ghost-writing, researching for authors, penning their own stories and articles for submission to magazines, and writing their own books. Writers Market www.writersmarket.com is a freelance writer's resource for places to submit writing for possible publication. Their resources are accessed with a small subscription fee. www.freelancewriting.com has links to writing jobs. Blogging can sometimes create an income stream. Resume writer is another self employment niche.

Useful Websites and Resources:

www.craigslist.org lists numerous positions under "writing/editing" and also under "marketing/pr"

www.journalismjobs.com is a job board for media professionals

www.cnpa.com is the website for the California Newspaper Publishers Association

pubpronetwork.org is the website for the Publishing Professionals Network

www.baipa.org Bay Area Independent Publishers Association puts on an annual institute

[home | Mediabistro](#) – Job board for writing, editor, and marketing jobs.

www.careerbuilder.com or [Job Search | Indeed](#)– Put "writer" in search box to match to opportunities in Legal, Information Technology, Design, Media-Journalism, and Marketing,

[Job Search | iHirePublishing](#). can be searched by zip code and job title or keyword