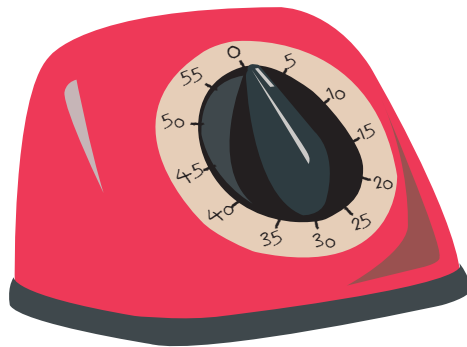


# 50 Ways to Build Your Freelance Writing Business Today

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No Matter How Much Time You Have

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Think you don't have time to work on your freelance writing business?

The fact is, you probably do have time! After all, we all have 168 hours in a week, but free time to do work likely comes in random bits and pieces scattered throughout the day or week.

Make those bits of time work for you! Whenever you find yourself with five minutes, half an hour, an hour, or even a whole day, choose a task that fits your availability from this checklist and get it done.

Any of these actions will move you toward your goal of becoming a successful, thriving freelance writer.

**Happy writing!**

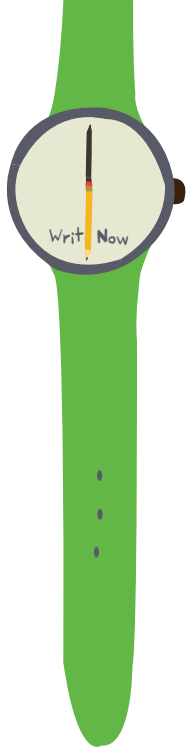
Linda Formichelli of The Renegade Writer ([www.TheRenegadeWriter.com](http://www.TheRenegadeWriter.com))



## If You Have 5 Minutes...

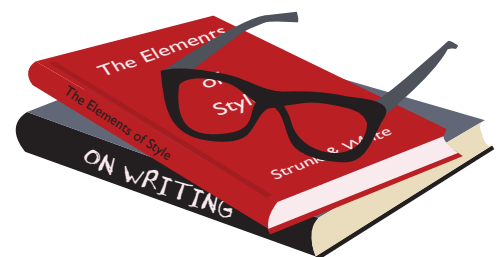
1. Ask an editor or client for a testimonial.
2. Sign up for the next LinkedIn for Journalists free training, which will get you a free upgrade to LinkedIn Premium.
3. Follow up on a query, letter of introduction, or sales letter you haven't heard back on.
4. Check out who has viewed your profile on LinkedIn. If one of the viewers looks like a good prospect, shoot him an InMail or email asking if he was looking for a writer.
5. If you write for a trade or custom publication, email your editor and ask if she'll introduce you to editors at other magazines in the group.
6. If you write for a large business, email your client and ask if he'll introduce you to the marketing execs in other divisions.
7. Download a copy of Freedom or another Internet/social media-blocking app, so it's ready when you need to focus on your writing.
8. Post to Facebook or Twitter asking your friends/followers what their biggest problems are. Later, you can mine them for article ideas.
9. Cold-call one prospect for your copywriting/content marketing.
10. Search online for an image to accompany your next blog post.
11. Read an article from a writing magazine or blog.
12. Update your LinkedIn and/or Twitter status, mentioning a project you're working on.
13. Proofread a pitch, post, or article that you've already written.
14. Handwrite a thank-you note to a client.





## If You Have 30 Minutes...

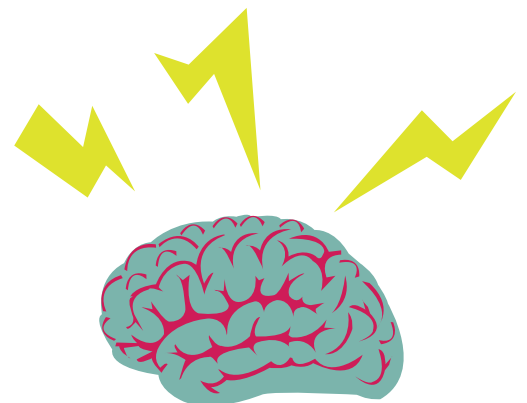
15. Read a chapter of a book on grammar or the craft of writing, such as *The Elements of Style* by Strunk & White (available free online) or *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser.
16. If you're selling products like books or reports online, sign up for the lists of master marketers like Naomi Dunford of Ittybiz or Ben Settle. Later, you can study their emails to see what you can learn from them.
17. Follow five editors or prospects on Twitter. Read their recent tweets and respond to them if you have something to add.
18. Add ten great writing/marketing/business blogs to your feed reader.
19. Send thank-you emails to five writers or bloggers you admire. (Networking!)
20. Add the top 10 blogs in the industry you write for to your feed reader.
21. Send an old article you own the rights to out to 5 regional magazines, offering reprint rights.
22. Research an idea/subject in preparation for writing a query letter.
23. Write your elevator speech for when people ask, "What do you do?"
24. Add your most recent writing samples to your website.
25. Surf the web for publications you want to write for and add them to your list.
26. Format your latest blog post, upload an image, and schedule it to go live.
27. Read the current issue of a magazine you want to pitch, online or off.
28. Add recent writing samples to your LinkedIn portfolio.
29. Update your LinkedIn profile.

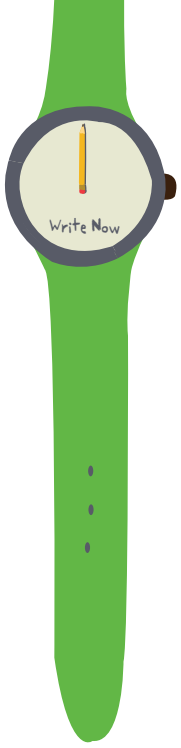




## If You Have One Hour...

30. Research five businesses online that you'd like to pitch your copywriting or content writing services to, and add them to your list.
31. Unearth an old query you wrote that never got accepted, quickly update it if needed, and send it off to three more publications.
32. Update your writer website. Freshen the copy, add new clients, post new testimonials, etc.
33. Email all the clients you've written for and let them know you have openings in your schedule—and is there anything you can do for them?
34. If you run a blog or have a mailing list, survey your readers using a free online polling app to find out what they'd most like you to write about.
35. Cold-call 20 prospects as fast as you can. (For most of them, you'll be leaving a voicemail.)
36. Write a blog post.
37. Go through old articles, newsletters, etc. you've written. Create a folder of the ones you own the rights to that you could sell as reprints.
38. Write a well-researched, fully fleshed-out query letter to a magazine, and send it out to five publications.
39. Brainstorm as many ideas as you can for blog posts or guest posts.
40. Brainstorm as many article ideas as you can .





## If You Have All Day...

41. Do a letter of introduction marathon for trade magazines: Write customized LOIs, each one complete with three quick article ideas.
42. Do a letter of introduction marathon for businesses: Write customized LOIs, each one complete with details on three projects you can help them with.
43. Write up a bunch of blog posts so you're all set for a few weeks.
44. Buy and read an e-book on freelance writing or marketing.
45. Overhaul your writer website.
46. If you don't have a writer website, build one using Wordpress.
47. If you don't have a LinkedIn profile, build one.
48. Set up a day-long accountability "boot camp" with another writer. Call one another every hour to discuss what you have accomplished in the last hours and what you plan to do in the next one.
49. Attend a networking event.
50. Have coffee or lunch with a local prospect, client, or editor. (This works if you know you'll have a free day coming up.)



## And...That's 50!



Here's a secret: If you can't decide which of these tasks to tackle first when a window of time opens up—you can just choose one at random.

Except for actual assignments, there are pretty much no deadlines in freelance writing. Nothing has to get done before anything else. It doesn't matter whether you update your LinkedIn profile before you ask for a testimonial, or pen a thank-you note before reading a writing book.

And that's what can be overwhelming about it—but also freeing.

Close your eyes and stick your finger on a random action in the appropriate section, get it done...and you'll be that much closer to your freelance writing goals.

If you'd like to learn more about how to boost your freelance writing business, I invite you to visit The Renegade Writer Blog at [www.TheRenegadeWriter.com](http://www.TheRenegadeWriter.com). We have e-books, courses, mentoring, and more, to help aspiring writers make a living doing what they love.

Also, if you haven't already, please join the Renegade Writer mailing list—you can do it right from the blog—to get my inspiring and helpful Monday Motivations for Writers emails.

And if you want to become the most popular writer on the block, forward this checklist to three freelancer friends!

