



**English**

# Writing and Editing

## Creative Writing

- **Novels: fiction and nonfiction**
- **Poetry, plays, screenplays, and scripts**
- **Greeting cards**
- **Lyrics/Jingle writing**

## Journalism:

- **Writing/Reporting**
- **Editing**
- **Critique**

## Freelance writing

# Writing and Editing Employers

Newspapers/Magazines

Broadcast media companies: television, radio, and movie

Trade, professional, or consumer publications

Internet sites

Government agencies

- **Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, and State**
- **Veterans Affairs**
- **National Archives and records administration**

Universities and university presses

Technical industries

Self-employed/Freelance

Large corporations

# Writing and Editing Strategies

Select elective coursework in a particular area of interest.

Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or departmental or program newsletters.

Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center.

Become familiar with the proposal writing and submission process involved in freelance writing.

Gain as much experience as possible through volunteer positions, internships, or part-time jobs.

Demonstrate patience and persistence in starting a career in creative writing.

# Technical Communication

Technical writing and editing

Science and medical writing

Grant and proposal writing

Software and hardware documentation

Information technology writing

Human-computer interface design

Corporate communications and training

Mechanical communication

# Technical Communication Employers

Management, scientific, and technical consulting companies

Technical industries

Retailers including electronics

Engineering firms

Healthcare industry

Computer systems design companies

Software publishers

Self-employed/Freelance

# Technical Communication Strategies

Earn a bachelor's degree with a focus in English, communication, or journalism. Complete coursework in technical communications.

Minor or take classes in science and/or computer science to learn about technical areas and trends.

Gain experience in a specialized field such as engineering, medicine, science, web design, or computer software.

Develop strong grammar and language skills; consider a second-language.

Obtain volunteer or internship experience as a research assistant in a technical information department.

Pursue a technical writing or editing internship.

# Publishing

Editing

Advertising

Sales

Circulation

Production

Publicity

Marketing

Promotion

Administration

# Publishing Employers

Trade publishing

Special interest magazines

Trade magazines

Association magazines

Sunday newspaper supplements

Educational publishing

Religious books and magazines

Professional and scholarly publishing

University presses

Independent publishers

Alternative media publishers (e.g., e-books, audiobooks)

# Publishing Strategies

Obtain an internship in the publishing industry.

Participate in a summer publishing institute.

Develop proofreading, editing, and copy-editing skills; maintain current knowledge of digital production technology.

Gain experience by writing for student publications such as the newspaper, creative writing magazines, the yearbook, etc.

Conduct an informational interview with or shadow a professional in the publishing industry.

Look for positions with local dailies and alternative weeklies in the community.

Volunteer to write or edit publications with local nonprofit organizations to gain experience.

Be prepared to relocate to cities with a publishing presence. A large majority of opportunities exist in New York City.

Research the publishing industry to learn more about career ladders.

# Education

## Higher education administration:

- Admissions, financial aid, academic advising and support services
- Student affairs (e.g., residence life, student activities, orientation, leadership, Greek life, multicultural programs)
- Development and alumni affairs
- International education and study abroad

## Information/Library Science

## Non-classroom Teaching

## English as a Second Language (ESL)

## Research

## Teaching

## Tutoring

## Administration

# Education Employers

Public and private K-12 schools

Colleges and universities

Language institutes, local and abroad

Libraries

Museums

Private learning centers

Test preparation organizations

Nonprofit organizations involved with literacy

# Education Strategies

Obtain appropriate state certification for public school teaching. Gain certifications to teach multiple subjects or age groups for increased job opportunities.

Earn a master's or doctorate degree for post-secondary teaching.

Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations for graduate school.

Plan to attend graduate school in college student personnel or information science for those fields.

Seek volunteer experiences working with children through Big Brother/Sister programs, tutoring, summer camps, YMCAs, etc.

Participate in activities such as debate or literary clubs, campus publications, or student government.

Pursue leadership roles such as resid

# Public Relations

Account coordination

Writing

Editing

Research

Media relations

Social media

Account Management

Fundraising

# Public Relations Employers

Public relations firms

Advertising agencies

In-house public relations departments

Trade associations

Colleges and universities

Nonprofit organizations

Government agencies

# Public Relations Strategies

Obtain internship or other relevant work experience to break into this field.

Be prepared to start at the bottom and work for promotions.

Develop strong research, public speaking, and interpersonal skills.

Seek experiences being self-directed and a team player.

Volunteer to write publications for nonprofit or student organizations.

Supplement curriculum with business courses.

# Law

Law assistance

Prosecution

Defense

Contractual

Corporate

Nonprofit or public interest

Government

Mediation

Lobbying

# Law Employers

Law firms

State and local government

Corporations

Public interest organizations

Private practice

Colleges and universities

# Law Strategies

Participate in a debate or forensic team to hone communication skills.

Develop strong research skills and attention to detail.

Take courses in and gain experience with mediation and conflict resolution.

Get involved with pre-law organizations.

Obtain a summer or part-time job in a law firm.

Plan to shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.

Complete special training requirements for paralegal positions.

Attend law school and earn a JD to become an attorney.

Maintain an excellent GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations to gain law school admittance. Plan to take the LSAT.

# General English Information

A bachelor's degree in English is very broad and is sufficient for entry-level positions in business and industry, as well as in areas such as entertainment, radio and television commentary, and museum work. Because English can lead to many different career paths, it is important to identify an area of interest and plan to gain the right skills, experiences, and credentials to enter that field.

A major in English is also good preparation for continued graduate or professional training in areas such as English, law, political science/government, public administration, communications, religious studies (e.g., seminary).

Be proactive, determined, assertive, and confident in order to secure freelance writing opportunities. Writers typically experience many rejections for each piece that is accepted for publication. Save samples of written work to be used for a portfolio. Cultivate other career opportunities in order to supplement a freelance writing income.

Obtain additional areas of expertise such as journalism, broadcasting, technical writing, or politics for specialized positions.

Conduct informational interviews or shadow professionals in careers of interest to learn more about their jobs.