

## **Writing for Periodicals and Newspapers**

taught by Julie Lavender,

contributor to The Seven, a Charisma Podcast Network podcast and author of  
*365 Ways To Love Your Child: Turning Little Moments Into Lasting Memories* (Revell)  
& *Children's Bible Stories for Bedtime* (Penguin Random House)

### Writing Articles for Magazines

1) PRAY!!

2) Read Submission Guidelines  
Resources: Writers Market Guide  
Christian Writers Market Guide

Do they accept freelance submissions?  
What is the word count for each type of article in the magazine?  
How far ahead should you submit?  
Does the magazine want queries first or completed article?

3) Start small, but aim big

Consider submitting to “smaller” magazines or non-paying ones to establish writing credits, but don't be afraid to reach out to bigger ones, too.

4) Study sample articles in target publication

What subjects were covered recently?  
What is the style and tone of the magazine articles?  
How do they begin and end?

5) Choose a story idea or topic

6) Write article

7) Let manuscript “rest”

## 8) Edit

Check for clarity.  
Check for punctuation, grammar, or spelling errors.  
Have a critique partner read the article.

## 9) Write query letter

Be sure to find out acquisition editor's name with correct spelling.  
Start with lede paragraph – the 'hook.'  
Next paragraph is the nut graf – the paragraph summarizing what you're offering in the article.  
The 'body' comes next – two (or maybe three) paragraphs that give some examples from the story.  
Credentials and bio come next.  
Closing paragraph – show a tidbit of your knowledge of the magazine through a similar article, mention simultaneous submission, ask if you can submit

## 10) Send query

Send simultaneous submissions, but be sure to personalize each one.

## 11) Write or send article

Hopefully, the editor says YES and you can complete the article to send in. If you get one of those inevitable-at-times rejections, then move on to another publication

## 12) Celebrate!

Acceptance or rejection – celebrate! You've accomplished a lot, either way!

### **Extra! Extra! Read All About It!!! Writing for Newspapers**

#### **1) WHO WHAT WHEN WHERE WHY HOW**

#### **2) WHO SHOULD WRITE FOR NEWSPAPERS?**

You, that's who!!!

\* fresh content needed daily

- \* editors open to freelance “stringers”
- \* pay may not be great, but other benefits
- \* open to new writers
- \* experience
- \* easy way to earn bylines and build up a resume
- \* opportunity to share local God-stories
- \* often overlooked by writers

### **3) WHAT DO YOU ASK IN AN INTERVIEW?**

- \*Arrange the interview.
- \*Research and prepare questions.
- \*Be prompt.
- \*Carry pens, paper, camera, and recorder.
- \*Ask questions; take copious notes.
- \*Be flexible and prepared to follow another lead.
- \*Report with integrity and honesty.
- \*Transcribe interview promptly.

### **4)WHEN YOU START WRITING THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

5 Parts of article:

- \* headline – think “title”
- \* byline – author’s name
- \* lead paragraph – 5Ws and 1 H
- \* explanation – paragraphs with important details
- \* additional details – less important info

--Start with the lead: include the 5Ws and 1H in the first paragraph.

“Bulloch Leadership sponsored the fifth annual Chocolate Run in which participants walked or ran a five-mile course downtown on Saturday and raised \$43,000 to benefit the Open Hearts Community Mission homeless shelter.”

Who – Bulloch Leadership

What – Fifth-annual Chocolate Run

When – Saturday

Where – five-mile course downtown

Why – to raise money for homeless shelter

How – participants walked or ran

-- “Joseph Montgomery of Newington, Georgia celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in a rather unusual way. On a cold Sunday morning, January 7, Montgomery gave away gifts on his birthday instead of receiving them.”

-- “A summer afternoon at the beach quickly became a scramble to save a pod of disoriented pilot whales, as vacationers on a popular Georgia island joined lifeguards and state wildlife crews in the water to stop dozens of the large marine mammals from beaching themselves.”

-- Other tips:

\*Watch the word count.

\*Use short sentences and short paragraphs and simple words.

\*Use active voice.

\*Refer to AP Stylebook for newspaper guidelines, grammatical issues, and formatting.

## **5) WHERE DO YOU FIND STORIES?**

Everywhere!!!

## **6) WHY LOOK, THERE ARE SO MANY NEWSPAPER OPPORTUNITIES!**

\*news articles

\*food

\*travel

\*entertainment

\*books

\*arts

\*sports and physical fitness

\*opinion pieces

\*home decorating

\*religion

\*business

\*lifestyle

\*columns

\*and much more

## 7) HOW DO YOU GET PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER?

- \* email or phone newspaper editor and ask for an appointment
- \* query editor with bio and sample articles
- \* keep articles fresh and relevant
- \* be persistent, if rejected initially

## 8) WHO WHAT WHEN WHERE WHY HOW

### CONNECT WITH ME!

**I have a couple of favors, and then I want to ask you to share your writing successes with me!**

\*I'm one of seven contributors to a new podcast. Michelle Medlock Adams, Andy Clapp, Del Duduit, Bethany Jett, Britt Mooney, Cyle Young, and I talk about "life" and share tips on various topics that we hope ignites the faith of our listeners. I am blessed by every episode we record, and I feel certain others will be, too. My favor – will you go to the Charisma Podcast Network (or your favorite podcast platform) and subscribe to and follow our group? Will you download and listen to our episodes and share them with your friends? MANY thanks in advance!!

\*Next favor: I had the pleasure of being a guest on the Focus on the Family Broadcast back in January. I'd be so very honored if you'd listen to the broadcast, because each "view" encourages more opportunities for writers like me/us to be part of their show! Here's that link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti\\_1-eOtcjA&t=951s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti_1-eOtcjA&t=951s)

\*And last favor: Would you please consider checking out my books to give as a gift to yourself or someone special? And if you do, would you consider writing a brief, honest review on Amazon?

*365 Ways to Love Your Child: Turning Little Moments into Lasting Memories* (Revell)

<https://www.amazon.com/365-Ways-Love-Your-Child/dp/0800738845>

*Children's Bible Stories for Bedtime* (Penguin Random House)

<https://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Bible-Stories-Bedtime-Faith/dp/0593436164>

I'd love to hear about your periodical and newspaper successes!!! Please connect with me at [julielavenderwrites.com](http://julielavenderwrites.com) and on social media to tell me about ANY of your writing successes! I love talking about writing with fellow writers! It's my joy to pray for writer friends and encourage them, too! Let's connect!

<https://www.facebook.com/JulieLavenderAuthor>

<https://twitter.com/JLavenderwrites>

<https://www.instagram.com/julielavenderwrites/>

[lavenders@bulloch.net](mailto:lavenders@bulloch.net)