# **Freelance Writing Projects that** Elevate You to Valued Consultant





With AWAI's Rebecca Matter and Pam Foster

# Who's Who











# **Goals for today**

- You: the consultative copywriter
- 4 different ways to pursue this
- Resources to start now
- Tips to lock in lasting relationships
- Q&A





# YOU: The Well-Paid Consultative Copywriter



# The key to elevating your value

#### **Go from writer to partner!**

- Move from laborer to architect
- Dig deeper into their business
- Provide guidance and strategy
- Make things easier for clients
- Deliver better results
- Become indispensable (the long game!)







# 4 different ways to pursue this



# Each opportunity...

- Stems from your copywriting knowledge
- Is critical for the client's ongoing success
- Removes a huge burden (pain point) for the client
- Sets the stage for major improvements, results







#### How this elevates you

You're not *just* writing/ optimizing web pages...

You're finding gaps and opportunities across the website, **to transform its ongoing success potential** 





#### What you provide

- An audit of main web pages
- Evaluate 21 "musts" for effective sites (mobile-ready, message clarity, etc.)
- A report on your findings, with recommended improvements
- Proposal to fix content gaps/issues



#### **Excellent fee per audit**

- \$1,500-\$2,000+ per audit
- About 10 hours at first, then less time
- 10-page report (give or take)
- Consultative walk-through to explain and encourage





#### PLUS, fees to revise and write!

- The content usually needs help
- \$500-\$600+ per page to revise and optimize
- Lots of pages to fix? Pace it over several months
- Total redesign down the road? Manage the content there, too!
- Add-ons: emails, blog posts, etc.





#### **Easy to do!**

- Follow a checklist to evaluate
  - 21 clues: yes/no/sort of
  - Based on proven best practices
- Write a report that outlines your findings and recommendations
- Use screen shots to help clients
- Propose to write/fix the gaps

	Criteria and Descriptions Site Identity - Where am I / what is this?	Yes	Sort	No	Notes		
ſ	Company name, logo	x		1	-Name & logo are consistent, "Business		
İ	Customer-focused tagline	1	1.	x	Assurance" is vague, not customer-focused		
t	Headline identifying what's there for the visitor			×	-Headlines need to have clearer benefit for visito		
2.	About us: what it means to the visitor		x		-About Us needs content & headline that appea		
ł	About us: what it means to the visitor Contact information (not just a boilerplate form)	1	x	×	-About Us needs content & headline that appears more to visitor. What's in it for prospect?		
Footer to enhance legitimacy:					-A photo & short bio of each staff member		
t	Company name	x		1	would build more trust; allows you to		
t	Physical address	x	-		explain how their experience is a benefit to client		
Ī	Phone	x	-	1	-Footer looks great except black links against gre		
ſ	Live link to email	x	x		are difficult to see. No live link to phone #. -Contact page needs to be more than boilerplate		
ſ	Privacy Policy link	×		-	(see Summary for more info)		
	Content Strength: Clear When visitors arrive at the site, they glance in seconds deciding whether or not to stick around. What the company does -Not immediately obvious what Critical Ops does.						
	What the company does			×	Found myself asking, "But what do they actually		
	Why it offers the best solution			x	do?" -CEOs might be in desperate need of your		
	How to find	1	x		services, but will never understand the value of		
	What to do			×	Critical Ops if they don't use the same jargon -No language explaining how Critical Ops offers		
ĺ	Most critical page elements should be visible "above the fold" - the first screen visitors see on		×		the best solution for potential customers -Isn't clear what visitors should do once on sit -See "C" in Homepage findings		

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#### **AWAI Resources**

- Articles:
  - <u>Get Paid Twice When You Do Site Audits</u> for Clients
  - <u>A Handy Site Audit Checklist for SEO and</u> <u>Content Writing that Works — And Leads</u> <u>to More Projects</u>
- Program:
  - Site Audits Made Simple







#### How this elevates you

You're not *just* writing individual blog posts or articles as assigned...

You're creating a strategy on what will resonate the most over time to **bring in more traffic, leads, sales.** 





#### What you provide

- Overall content plan to help audience at many stages via:
  - Blog posts/articles
  - Videos
  - Newsletters
  - More
- Editorial calendar(s) and other "maps" to help clients





#### **Excellent fees**

- \$5,000 for an overall strategy
- Plus, \$5,000+ a month to write the various content pieces
- Offer packages on monthly retainer, set for a year





#### Easy to do!

- Prepare a custom plan for strategic content through entire buying cycle
  - Attract Prospects
  - Generate Leads
  - Convert Leads to Buyers
  - Keep Buyers Happy
- Include a proposal to write the pieces
- Include ongoing management
- Include reporting on the results





#### **AWAI resources**

- Articles:
  - <u>Get Paid as Much as \$5,000 a Month as</u> <u>a Content Marketing Strategist</u>
  - How to Make Even More Money from the Content Marketing Trend
- Program:

Content Marketing Mastery Mentorship www.awai.com/contentmastery

#### Get Paid as Much as \$5,000 a Month as a Content Marketing Strategist



He's had a variety of odd jobs: producer, circus performer, book publisher, speaker, and entrepreneur.

But no matter what job title he had, he never lost his love for music.

By Sandy Franks



# **3. UX Copywriting** (UX = User Experience)



#### How this elevates you

You're not *just* writing copy for separate elements...

You're advising on ways to enrich the customer experience through the entire buying cycle — **boosting sales** and satisfaction





#### What you provide

- A User Experience audit
- Report on your findings
- Recommended improvements
- New/revised copy for each piece of the buyer journey
- Ongoing management and tracking/fine-tuning





#### **Excellent fees**

- \$1,000-\$2,000 e-comm audit
- \$2,000-\$3,000 mobile audit
- \$250-\$750 email signup audit
- Upwards of \$10,000 for a complete website audit following the customer journey





#### Easy to do!

- Walk through the experience through the eyes of the user
- Uncover gaps and areas to improve clarity
- Determine how client's messages make or break the UX
- Small changes lead to big results





#### **AWAI resources**

- Articles:
  - <u>User Experience Copywriting Gives</u> <u>Writers a New Way to Stand Out</u>
  - <u>UX Copywriting in Action</u>
  - <u>10 Reasons You Might Be a UX</u> <u>Copywriter and Just Not Know It Yet</u>
- Program:

UX Copywriting Mastery & Certification www.awai.com/uxmastery

#### 10 Reasons You Might Be a UX Copywriter and Just Not Know It Yet



Do you ever feel like there's always something new to learn? And it's true ... ongoing learning is important to your success as a writer.

But because you have so many option to serve you and your clients best.

By Heather Robson

But because you have so many options, it's also important to focus your learning on what's going





#### How this elevates you

You're not *just* writing social media posts...

You're mapping out a strategy to **build trust, engage, and bring in more business** 





#### What you provide

- Brand awareness campaign ideas
- Acquisition campaign ideas
- Strategies to build trust and foster community among audiences
- Strategies for engaging, inspiring, and entertaining a community
- Creative asset coordination (graphics, video) for campaigns





#### **Excellent fees**

- \$50-\$250/hour for management
- Can be 5-10 hours/week = @40/month
- \$2K low end to \$10K high end!
- Include strategic planning, posts, moderating, ads... all of it







#### Easy to do!

- Already doing social media, turn it into client-focused work
- Study what others are doing well
- Create conversational (human) campaigns/posts
- Track/report reactions
- Be a voice for the client
- Set yourself up for other projects!





#### **AWAI Resources**

- Articles:
  - <u>With Billions of People Hooked on Social Media</u> <u>... It's a GREAT Time to Become a Social Media</u> <u>Expert</u>
  - <u>6 Reasons Every Writer Should Offer Social</u>
    <u>Media Services</u>
- Program:
  - How to Make Money as a Social Media
    Marketing Expert





#### How to Make Money as a Social Media Marketing Expert



# Tips to lock in lasting relationships



# **Assume clients need help**



#### **Marketers are overwhelmed**

- So MANY marketing channels today
- More buyers online than ever before
- Competition for attention is high
- Struggle to get results
- No qualified staff, can't find resources





# **Marketing Insider Group 2021 survey**

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Other			
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WHAT ARE YOUR TEAM'S TOP CONTENT

Creating content that generates quality Creating content that attracts more Developing content that resonates with our target au Improving the SEO performance of our c Finding ideas for creating new c Proving the ROI of our c Proving the effectiveness of our content marketing st Identifying the most efficient channels for content distri Managing the editorial ca Coordinating the wo Organizing and managing content marketing cam Hiring highly gualified spec Finding the right content marketing technol Maintaining a consistent tone of voice through all content marketing ch





# **Research their audience and efforts**



#### Think like their customer...

- Who is the audience?
- What are they hoping to solve or find?
- How are they looking for the solution?
- What do they know/believe to be true?
- What does the company offer that's a fit?
- How/where can they connect?



# on? rue? a fit?

# **Be their superhero**



#### With your objective, strategic view...

- Bring the client fresh ideas
- Show the client what competition is doing
- Show the client how to stand out
- Create a cohesive plan
- Double treat: not only a guide also the writer!
- Invest in their wins (it's a win/win!)



# **Questions?** Put them in the Q&A Box



