

CONNECT	
Could YOU Write With Us?	

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You could be closer to becoming a published writer than you'd realised!

- 1 There are all kinds of reasons why, like the lady in our photograph, you're not writing – or not enough, anyway. One reason might be - where on earth can you share what you think, feel or believe about what matters to you?

Social media tends to allow just a brief glimpse of people's thoughts and concerns before they're buried under the continual avalanche of succeeding posts. It's not ideal – instead, why not be a Writer with CONNECT? CONNECT was set up, in part, to encourage citizen journalists. If writing feature articles appeals to you, we'd love to have you aboard!



- 2 Journalistic writing is a great way to - among other purposes - express an opinion or share knowledge. If you're interested in writing on a topic that you're passionate about - this opportunity could be for you.

But what does becoming a Writer with CONNECT involve? What will I need to do? What will I get out of it?

What is CONNECT?

[CONNECT](#) is a web-based platform that publishes informative articles on a wide range of subjects. These articles are usually written articles but they also include video and audio podcasts.

Right now, we're particularly looking for writers of feature articles to be published in the [Magazine](#) section of the website.

How long does an article have to be?

As the inspirational Michael Heppell once said – the answer to the question is:

Never too long – *only too boring*.

Never too short – *only too sparing*.

So, articles can be relatively short – up to 1000 words - or much longer, say 2000-3000 words.

What [on earth] would I write about?

Articles will be on a topic of your own choice.

Subjects can be:

- Everyday issues that affect your life, other people's, or everyone's
- Local issues, interests and concerns
- Big stuff that affects all of us on the planet and/or the planet itself
- Historical topics - with a new insight perhaps
- Your personal concerns for where society is currently heading
- Our environment, animal welfare, food production - and much more

Like you, we have a big interest in a whole host of subjects. We are also interested in what others think – and feel - about these same subjects and many more topics besides.

How much time will it take up?

That's entirely up to you. The length of your articles is your choice and naturally, how quickly you write is a matter for you, as well.

We'd prefer writers to contribute at least one article every two months, but if you wrote four in a year, we'd be delighted! Quality trumps quantity!

Do I need writing experience, certain skills, or particular qualifications?

In terms of qualifications, you don't need any. Great, isn't it? No specialist knowledge is required or necessary, either. As long as you have the ability to research, summarise and present information, you could be a writer with us! You don't need writing experience, nor do you need to have had any writing published previously.

So what DO I need?

Perhaps you have knowledge or expertise on a particular topic, or you have the ability to present your thoughts and opinions - overlaid with analysis and questioning – in a way that others will want to read.

Your inspiration to write on a subject may have been triggered by what others have written in the mass media. You may agree or disagree with the views you've come across, but you'll want to tell everyone why. Importantly, you will be putting your own spin - or your own take - on the topic. Your approach will be either that of an independent journalist, or an interested and wannabe-vocal citizen of the world.

You'll possess an interest in sharing your thoughts, your opinion, your beliefs or informing the world on a subject you have a strong view about, are informed about or are just plain passionate about.

The style of your written articles will need to be:

- Informative – and depending on the topic, perhaps entertaining as well
- Balanced – although having a bias is OK – when you admit to your bias
- Questioning and searching – while being non-confrontational

So, if the idea of writing for us – in a journalistic style – appeals to you, then we'd love to have you aboard as a writer!

What will I get out of being a writer with CONNECT?

Coaching to develop, improve and hone your writing skills

You'll get honest and positive feedback, making you a better communicator

Experience in writing commissioned articles to a deadline

You'll develop the skill of writing to order

A platform for your views, opinions, knowledge or expertise or all of these

You won't need to risk having the "wrong" opinion on social media!

Experience in pitching your ideas for an article to editors

This is a skill you'll need if you become a professional writer

Our writers also benefit from heavily discounted advertising

A key benefit to writers who run a business or have a book to promote

What won't I get out of being a writer with CONNECT?

Our future financial model involves monetary reward. This applies to writers, editors and other roles, including assisting businesses with marketing.

At present however the role of Writer is an unpaid, occasional role.

- 3 It may be that you're already a writer, perhaps in a different genre that is nothing to do with journalism.

By the way, if you write, you're a writer – because a writer is a person who writes. Being a writer is not dependent on being published – or finishing a book.

I'm a Novelist/Poet/Scriptwriter/Short Story Writer, so...

Fantastic! Developing the skill of journalistic writing can lead to writing for a different purpose - novels, short stories or scripts perhaps.

For writers who are already writing fiction or scripts, journalistic writing can hone your existing talents. Now, it might appear that journalists and fiction writers are quite different. One writes about "real life" while the other makes stuff up – storyworlds, plots and of course – their characters. It's not true, however! *Journalists are storytellers.*

Despite what we might assume and what is often suggested, journalism is NOT objective. Yep – shocker, huh? Successful journalists and other professional writers communicate by the same method: telling a story. Journalists write – or should do! – about facts and make sure – again, or they should do! – that what they write is true.

BUT – and for some of us, this will come as no surprise - all the way through

the process of writing, journalists frame the narrative in a way that leads readers to read the *story* in a particular way. And a *story* it is!

As for poetry, some of the best feature articles draw the reader in, in just the same way that a poem does. Writing for our Magazine means sculpting words, just as you do in your poems.

- 4 Perhaps small details such as in the photograph [the *Cat on Keyboard* problem] have – to date – stopped you from writing regularly.

However, you possess an interest in sharing your thoughts, your opinions, your beliefs, informing the world on a subject you have a strong view about, are informed about or are just plain passionate about.

You MUST possess that – otherwise, why are you still reading?!

Seriously, if you think this opportunity to be a Citizen Journalist might be for you, then do [please get in touch](#) with us to find out more.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The CONNECT LIBRARY

We have compiled a library of interesting articles across a wide range of subjects - and they are all accessible to our interested readers. They take the form of webpages, PDFs, audios and videos.

Some of the articles have been published by CONNECT but many have simply been catalogued for general reference and expanded research.

Further articles relative to the subjects covered in *this* magazine article can be read under their respective headings, in our different Reading Rooms.

The CONNECT Library is free to join and is being added to every week. [Register here today](#) and gain access to thousands of articles on your subjects of interest – using it as your reference library to return to whenever you wish.

CONNECT'S Maxim and Oath

Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH.
In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: Helen King

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