Essential Guidelines For Researching Freelance Articles

1. Verify your sources

There’s nothing worse than submitting a piece only to have readers (or your client) pointing out mistakes or inaccuracies. So whenever you’re using information or quotes from other sources, be extra-sure they’re reliable, accurate and trustworthy.

Recently published. A source that is, say, ten years old might contain outdated information as compared to one that was published within the last year. It’s often best to stick to the most recent stuff you can find, especially online.

Reputable author, publisher or platform. Look carefully at the origin of the source. Is it a website, publisher or ‘expert’ you’ve never heard of? If so, it’s worth doing a little extra research to ensure the source is reputable. You’ll usually be safe with government and educational sources, but others such as online news sites and blogs might require more thorough vetting.

Well-written. It’s relatively safe to say that if a source (especially online) is riddled with spelling and grammar errors, it’s likely to contain factual errors as well.

Can be corroborated with other sources. If you’ve found the same information in multiple sources, that’s generally a good indicator that it’s reliable, provided it adheres to all the above qualities as well.

**Depending on the format and style of your piece, it’s a good idea to provide references or links to your verified sources throughout or at the end of your article.**

2. Use a multi-resource approach

Venture out from behind your computer screen and consult other sources: books, magazines, journals, documentaries, etc.

3. Try some Google search hacks

Use quotation marks to search for exact phrases. For example, if you want to search for an exact quote to attribute its source, add quotation marks when you type it into Google: “That’s one small step for man”.

Search for results from one specific website using site:[insert domain]. For example, searching “freelance writer” site:writersedit.com would bring up all results with that exact phrase from Writer’s Edit!

Use AND/OR commands to narrow down or broaden your searches. For example, if you’re researching the benefits of cryptocurrencies and you search Bitcoin AND Ethereum benefits, Google will only show you results containing both the words ‘Bitcoin’ and ‘Ethereum’. If you search Bitcoin OR Ethereum benefits, you’ll see results containing either of those keywords, but not necessay both.

4. Talk to people

Creating a rough outline or plan for your article has many benefits. It provides a solid structure for your piece; it makes things less overwhelming by breaking down your article into small sections you can complete one at a time; and it ensures you won’t leave out any of the valuable research you’ve done.

Your rough plan might look something like the following:

Introduction

Main point 1

Supporting point 1

Supporting point 2

Main point 2

Supporting point 1

Supporting point 2

Conclusion

6. Keep your research organised

-The resources used for your research will also form your bibliography that you will use towards the end of your paper. three primary parts which are introduction, body and conclusion. The introduction clearly states the objective of the paper. It further familiarizes the reader on what to expect by revealing the organization plan. Then write the body of the research paper which is where the arguments to support the thesis statements are. Develop your essay around main points you want to make and integrate your sources into your discussion. At this point, do not report but rather analyze, explain, evaluate and summarize your information. Finally, conclude your research paper by summarizing your findings and arguments in a convincing way.

Basic Steps in the Research Process

Step 1: Identify and develop your topic. ...

Step 2 : Do a preliminary search for information. ...

Step 3: Locate materials. ...

Step 4: Evaluate your sources. ...

Step 5: Make notes. ...

Step 6: Write your paper. ...

Step 7: Cite your sources properly. ...

Step 8: Proofread.

Sort fact from fiction. Before you begin your research, make a list of the kinds of sites that are best for your topic. Is the website reliable and up to date? Check to see if the author is identified and sources are cited. Government sites ending in .gov and educational sites ending in .edu usually are safe bets. Established news-related sites are OK, too, but be sure that you're using the original source. If a newspaper article mentions another source, like an organization or website, go directly to that source to find the information.