

The biggest morale booster for new writers is getting published. However, they don't decide whether they get published. Unless they use a vanity press, where they have to pay to have their works published, it is the editor's job to decide who will be published.

There are things that you, as a new writer, can do to improve your chances of publication. They are:

Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper. Most local newspapers won't reject those letters if it is something of interest to the local community. Write three to six paragraphs stating your opinion and using good reasoning to voice your concerns. If you have a weekly-published community paper in your area, you may lengthen the essay from 750 words to a maximum of 1,500 words.

Write a press release. Notices can be written about special activities or news for a school, church, community group, or other organizations. When writing this kind of article, follow the example of the newspaper and place the important things in the beginning.

Write an article for your company newsletter. There are many things that you could write about. New employees can be profiled, cost-effective techniques can be examined or the company's softball team can be praised. The company newsletter's editor will also be thankful for your contribution.

Write a movie review, restaurant critique or a museum exhibit for one of those free shopper magazines, which most communities have. The editorial staff is always looking for good, easy-to-read articles that won't be offensive to the magazine's sponsors.

Write an anecdote similar to the ones in Reader's Digest. While it is competitive to sell an anecdote to Reader's Digest, there are other magazines that use humorous reports about everyday life. You will have a better chance if your anecdotes are crisp and to the point.

Except for the anecdotes, you shouldn't expect to get paid for most of this work. It is and can be good experience.