

Writing For Money Is A Full Time Job

By: Kathy Duncan

When people are finding it difficult to pay for the most simple necessities during this recession, some old fashioned people (my parents) might think that calling yourself a freelance writer is self indulgent. They might think that if you were willing to go out and scrub floors and do something back-breaking, you might be trying harder. This is simply not true. Writing is hard work, and making ends meet is a constant challenge. It can be done, you just have to work as hard as if you were scrubbing floors.

Some writers say that writing contests and essay competitions are a waste of time. That really depends on what you are doing in your spare time to find a job or make money otherwise. If you are a freelance article writer and blogger, you are probably working for pennies at a time anyway. Supplementing your income with prizes paid in products that you would buy with cash is a winning plan.

There are many grocery stores, food companies, and major chain stores that are looking for consumer input. It is not uncommon to find local grocery stores offering \$500.00 worth of free groceries for the best essay on what you like about their store. If you study their marketing plan and spend the essay complimenting them on their success, you could win. You will get local recognition in the newspaper as a winning writer, and the food prize! This does not demean you as a professional writer. This should give you pride that your skills are serving your needs until you sell the big job that you dream about.

Part of the game of writing contests is the rules. So that the promoters are not stuck with reading thousands of entries, they lay down the rules, requirements, and guidelines about how to enter. They can eliminate many of the entries that have not followed the proper entry protocol without even reading the work.

Be sure that you read through the contest rules before taking a step further. Be sure that you qualify to enter, that you are willing to pay the required fee if there is one, and that you are willing to follow the guidelines such as word count, software with proper formatting, and other specific requirements.

Essays and contests are like blogging. They improve your writing skills with each exercise, and can pay in prizes that will save money on your favorite products. Check your local grocery store's free TV Guide for advertisements about contests.

The Writers Market or Fan Story online are a couple of the best places to find upcoming writing contests that you might want to enter. There is sure to be a resource for your genre. Writing for money is a constant quest to make ends meet, but it beats the heck out of scrubbing floors!