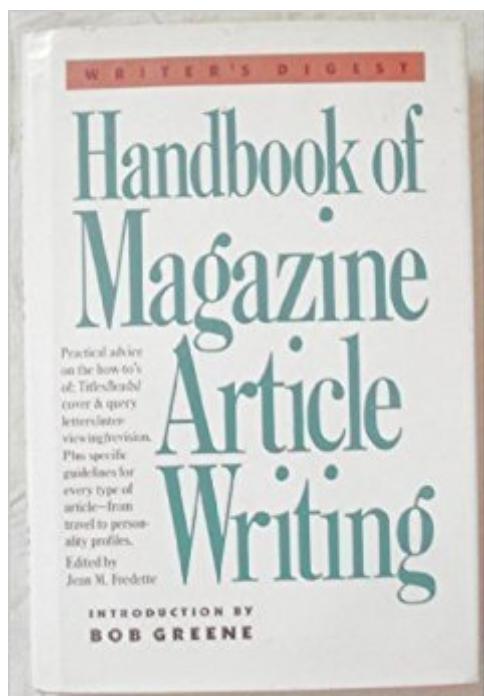


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Handbook Of Magazine Article Writing



Synopsis

Tamara's review Jan 23, 11 5 of 5 stars Recommended for: Anyone in the writing field Read in January, 2011 - I own a copy, read count: 1 Lots of good information for the beginning freelancer. Takes you all the way from queries, formats, article styles to legal information such as contracts, rights and payments. It is a pretty quick read and entertaining as well. Not boring and drug out. I recommend this book for not only freelancers, but anyone in the writing field.

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Customer Reviews

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Jean Fredette wrote in the "Handbook of Magazine Article Writing" that the best style is clean, no frills and bare-bones. His basic tenet is "Show me, don't tell me." Having writing talent is a potential it does not mean you are a great writer. His writing recommendations include: Use of the five W's (who, what, where, when and why), the inverted triangle. (Put the most interesting information first or you'll loose the reader.) Draw your readers in with interesting, fresh, effective titles. Write in an active voice. For example compare these statements: "The passive voice is avoided by good writers"

versus "Good writers avoid the passive voice." The second is more vigorous and concise. A passive voice makes for passive readers. Get help when you need it. Nobody can tell you what your words mean to you. But others can tell you what your words mean to them. Be sure you're ready for feedback. Don't ask if you only want praise. Never be a name dropper. Instead of just naming the places, animals, people and plants cultivate the essence of the place so you can interpret it for others. Although a writer looks for the specific and the universal. Choose the specific where possible. For example compare the sentences: "You can take a ferry between European Turkey and Asiatic Turkey" versus "The ferry zigzagged between European Turkey and Asiatic Turkey letting off and taking on passengers and cargo at dozens of docks." The passive voice (universal/general) the active voice is more detailed and specific. When describing places include the location, time of day (dawn, noon, twilight), the season (summer, spring, fall or winter), history, people, animals, plant life, smells, sounds and food. Fredette's book has sound and sensible advice. It is indispensable for the beginning writer, the seasoned pro and the editor.

This is an oldie, but a goodie. I wish a similar book was written in this decade. Each chapter is written by an established writer, covering such subjects as research, interviewing techniques, reselling articles to several sources, submitting manuscripts and many others. If you substitute "computer" and "laser printer" for each mention of a typewriter, a lot of the information is still usable.

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