



Site Navigation

- Home
- About Us
- Contact Us
- FAQ
- Site Map
- Policies
- Events
- Hot Links!
- Editor's Note

What's Inside?

- MIND
- BODY
- SPIRIT

Did You Know?

Products such as the circular saw, engine muffler, refrigerator, suspenders, life raft and washing machine were all invented by women!



Mind

We'd love to hear from you! If you have something to say, some poetry you'd like to share with our audience, or a story to tell, please don't hesitate to send it to us!

For some tips on how to write your best, please [click here](#).



Writing Contest Winners!

Thank you to everyone who entered! It was so hard to choose, but we've picked two winners. Here are their submissions.

First Place Winner

Why I love to read... Why I love to read? Now there's an interesting question. I guess my first response to a question like that is reading is a truly unreal experience. It's true, reading to me is not just a bunch of words on paper, instead it's a chance to learn something new or use your imagination to make up your own custom story. I am true dreamer, but most of the times these are dreams I know may never come true. When I read certain books I am able to experience these dreams. For example when I read books about enchanted castles and happy endings I live my dream of living in a fairy tale. Also, most of the reason that I love reading is that everything can go my way. For example, I can picture a character my way and use all the colors I want. The setting can also be where I want and when. I have control over everything. It's all in the imagination. Overall, reading is a great pleasure. It takes me places I've never gone before and shows me different possibilities. Reading makes me laugh, cry and gives me a chance to experience things that are truly impossible.

Second Place Winner

My fascination with reading has not vanished over the years. I still love it, although I choose the books more carefully now. This summer I have kept up my life-long tradition and I have read dozens of books. Most of

Trivia Question

What was famous woman Amelia Earhart known for?
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them were good and a few were truly enthralling. A person's power to read is like a treasure chest full of gold. I reflect on everything I've read and finished my day through that experience. I feel sad and disappointed for people who can't read for their lack of being in school or just because they have a certain disability and if I could, I would try to teach them how to and show them the meaning of reading. For instance, my favorite book is called Dreamland where it is about an abusing relationship. This reflect my life and the people who I shared it with. It shows what one girl can do to cover up her scars from her boyfriend toward her parents and friends. I know that reading booth your brain's power and your courage to be smart. "It's not what you read; it's what you get from reading."-a quote I made and loved.

Thanks to everyone who entered the contest and stay tuned for Toronto Girl's upcoming poetry contest in February!

Becoming a Writer



Tips to get you started

Read, Read, Read!

One of the best ways to improve your writing is to read! There is a lot that you can learn from the pros and reading can open you up to a whole new range of writing styles, story angles and topics. The more you read, the more your writing will flow.

As books can be expensive, try checking out new books at your local library or the library at your school. Why not start a book club with other friends or family members who enjoy reading? That way you can swap stories, discuss them together and everyone will save money in the end.

Check this out...

Toronto Public Library:

If you are 13 yrs or younger, there's still time to enter the Design a Bookmark Contest! Check it out...

http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/KidsSpace/forum/bkmark_contest2003.htm

Browse through their pick of the 100 top books to read for children and teens, including Julie Johnston's *Adam and Eve and Pinch Me* (an old personal favourite of mine.)

<http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/KidsSpace/grownups/100bestbooks.htm>

As part of their Young Voices Writing Contest, the library is offering writing workshops for teens. Check it out at

http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/pro_2003_young_voices_workshops.jsp

Humber School For Writer's: Humber College's writing workshops are among the best in Canada. 200 of their graduates have gone on to become published authors. Check out the list of faculty and staff--you may just find one of your favourite authors there. I did!

Instabook: There is a small fee but the product is your professional looking paperback book in about five minutes! There are locations in Oakville and Hamilton...check it out at www.instabook.ca **Tip:** when submitting a manuscript to publishers, try to make yours stand out in some way. This could be a really neat way of presenting it to them and letting them see just how your book could look when published by them!

Writing An Article 101

Thinking of writing for Toronto Girl? Here are some tips to help you get started...

Writing articles can be a fun and interesting experience. Whether you are planning on exploring a career in journalism or just simply think it would be neat to try, here are a few tips to get you started.

Be Prepared

Do your homework! I know, it's summer and homework is the last thing on your mind but the best reporters are always the best prepared.

1. Know what you need ahead of time. Will you need a tape recorder? A notepad? A pen that works? What kind of background information can you find on your subject before you interview them? The internet can be a wonderful tool to prepare yourself but be cautious—make sure the information is coming from a good, reliable source.
2. Make a list of questions before you go. You don't have to follow the list exactly but it will help to keep the questions fresh in your mind and ensure that you do not forget to ask the important ones. You may come up with questions that you would never have thought of on the spot!
3. How will you interview them? On the phone? In person? Through e-mail?
4. Bring an extra pen and, if you're using a recorder, an extra set of batteries. Check them before you go.

The Interview

Here are some examples of the basic questions to ask:

- How old are you?
- What do you do for a living?
- Why did you choose your profession?
- What are your future goals?

- Where were you born?

Then you can ask what are called “**open-ended**” questions. This means that they can’t just give you a yes or no answer. They have to give you a long answer.

Examples:

- So, tell me about your most memorable experience as a math teacher.
- Tell me about your job.
- Tell me what your biggest fear is and why.

Then, there are “**closed**” questions. These questions usually get yes or no answers.

Examples:

- So, you are a doctor?
- You were born in Toronto?
- Your best friend is Johnny?

It is good to have a mix of both questions. It will make it much easier when it comes time to write the article.

** Remember: If you are recording the interview, you must tell your subject first! They may not want to be recorded.

Taking Notes

Sometimes it can be very hard to write down everything your subject says. They can speak very quickly or quietly. Don’t let this discourage you—even professional journalists have to tell people to stop, start over and start again.

A “**quote**” is when you write down what your subject says word for word. Quotes can make an article much more interesting. Here are some tips for quoting your subject:

- Make sure names are spelled correctly. If you’re not sure, ask them how to spell it. If you’re still not sure, ask them again—don’t be afraid! Every journalist has to ask those questions.
- If you’re not positive that you wrote it down correctly, check again. When you write down the wrong thing while quoting someone, its called “**misquoting**” them. This can get some people in hot water. Ask them to repeat their answer or check it with your recorder. It’s better to be safe than sorry.
- Even if you use a tape recorder, write it down too! This will make it easier to check later and ensure that all your notes match!

Writing The Article

When you write an article, you can end up with a lot of information. How do you decide what information to actually put in the article?

You choose what is called an “**angle.**” This means that you focus on one topic or story from your interview. Let’s say you interviewed your gym teacher. She told you all about her family, what her favourite sports are and why she became a gym teacher. You could choose the angle of why she became a gym teacher and write the whole article about that.

Benefits of choosing angles:

- It makes it easier for the readers to understand.
- It makes your job easier—you’ll be able to write it more smoothly.
- Writing a lot about one topic can be much more interesting than writing about a lot

Once you have chosen your angle, look through your notes and pick out the information that you can use. Don’t forget your quotes!

The 5 Ws and H

Many reporters use a formula called “**the 5 Ws and H.**” These are:

- **Who** – who is your subject?
- **What** – what does your subject do? etc.
- **When** – when do they do it? When was the interview? etc.
- **Where** – where was the interview? Where do they work? etc.
- **Why** – Why did you use them as your subject? Why did they choose their profession? etc.
- **How** – How do they perform their job? How did they get there? etc.

You can answer these questions any way you like, but by answering them all you will have written a clear and interesting article.

Some tips for the writing process

- Plan an outline of what you’d like to write. It will make the job easier.
- Use a dictionary and thesaurus
- Make sure that all names are spelled correctly. This is called “fact checking.”
- Make sure that at the end of a quote you “attribute.” Attributing is when you let the readers know who said the quote.

Bad Example: “The water in the lake was very cold.”

Good Example: “The water in the lake was very cold,” Tom said.

Looks like you’re well on your way to becoming a reporter!

Remember girls, try interviewing your family members, friends or teachers first. If you are thinking of interviewing a neighbor or stranger, make sure you bring an adult along. **Never go alone!**

Good luck and happy reporting!

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