

Survey

One Tip for New Bloggers

In the blogger survey, I asked everyone to share one tip for a new blogger. I've organized them around general themes. The themes are mine, the advice from the bloggers is direct from the survey.

Content First - Be Passionate

Be yourself.

Make your content good. Nothing else matters if your content isn't good.

Write about what you love!

Blog about what you LOVE!

Have a topic and be passionate about it.

Be yourself and write about your passion, whatever that is.

Write in your own style, using your own voice. Otherwise, it doesn't seem sincere and who wants to read something insincere?

Write from the heart.

Zero in on what your passion is and write what you know!

Be yourself, be honest, be funny.

Write as much as you can!

Be original.

Be passionate, or else you'll fizzle out.

Write well. Be passionate about whatever it is you write about. And did I mention write well?

Be passionate about what you are going to write about and be yourself.

Write from your heart and write for yourself.

Be yourself and be honest.

Find your niche and own it

Have a niche and stick with it; keep focusing on what you want to write about it and build the audience.

Don't overthink it at first...just jump in. When you are ready - you can figure out the details and add to it. If you overthink it in the beginning, you'll be so overwhelmed that you'll never start!

Have a "viewpoint" of what you want your blog to be when you get started.

Be yourself - don't try to mimic another.

Anonymity is difficult to maintain. Use your name and don't write anything you don't want associated with your name.

Know who you are and what you hope to accomplish.

Take your time, build your own space, make it what you want it to be, then invite others.

Don't compromise what you believe in. Blog about what YOU want to blog about and not about what others think you should blog about.

Don't push to develop 'a style' immediately; simply write from your heart and it will come.

Don't beat yourself up, we were all new at one point.

Read lots of other blogs and don't be shy about commenting.

Make sure you're active on the social networking sites, such as Twitter and Facebook.

Connect with other bloggers.

Have a Plan

Do your research—choose a blogging platform and host that will make your life easier and help you to post more often; get your blog designed so that you love it and are proud of it, and so that it makes you want to write good posts! Always approve comments quickly and interact positively with your community as much as possible.

Know what you want to get out of it -- and what you're willing to give.

Have a plan with an objective and strategy.

Be very clear with yourself why you want to blog. Keeping my motivations in mind has gotten me through nearly five years of ups and downs.

Plan ahead. Consider your name and URL carefully.

Define your intended audience first - it's much easier to begin writing a post if you can picture 'your reader' at his or her screen.

Get organized and write or have solid outlines for at least 15 blog entries of 3-4 paragraphs. Have them ready to go so you won't get behind.

Create a focused blog, don't "write all over" the place. It's easier for readers to understand what you're about. If you want to write about multiple topics then do several blogs or create a "lifestyle" blog with specific pages for categories.

Write, write, write. Then: comment, comment, comment.

Have a paper plan, even if it is just a diagram.

Have more focus than me... also, discipline.

Think carefully about what you write; everything lives online forever.

Have a plan, a goal, a direction. Something.

Set a goal. Know what you want to do/write/say and stick to it. It is easy to get lost in this blogging world and not know where to go. **KNOW YOU!**

The best way to get other people reading your blog is to read and leave comments on theirs. However it's time consuming. So maybe don't get so obsessed with promoting yourself until you've gotten going and know what your real direction/hope/purpose is.

Make reasonable goals about output and stick to them.

Have a plan.

Make a rough outline of who, what, when, where, why and how you're going to blog so you'll have some direction.

Be organized. Be consistent. Be confident.

Set an intention for your blog & don't expect yourself to blog every day.

Be persistent. And patient.

KEEP GOING. One of my biggest peeves is getting into a new blog, and the author quits early on because they started it to MAKE MONEY and did not have instant results.

Never stop posting, even if you think your blog isn't going anywhere, it will eventually take you to some amazing places!

Understand that it can take time to find your footing, your voice, and your audience.

There is no such thing as overnight success. Start slowly and write up goals for yourself. Put in the sweat equity.

If you love it and would do it without making money, then keep at it! Your passion will shine through and you'll be rewarded for your hard work.

Know that it requires a commitment of time, energy, and creativity to survive long-term.

Forget about money, focus on being a skilled, honest and entertaining writer. The other stuff will follow if you get that part right.

Relax! You can always fix - upgrade- add more goodies - etc. and KISS (keep it simple!)

Be in it for the long haul.

Don't give up.

Cultivate an attitude of endurance and perseverance.

Post often

Post often to keep it fresh.

Blog - blog often - the rest will fall into place.

Write regularly - at least four times per week. 5-6 times per week is better.

To make sure to keep writing as often as possible. A blog is your own and there is no structure. Have fun and people will follow because they like what you have to say.

Be consistent and post regularly...and edit freely.

Post at least daily, and speak with conviction.

Pick a frequency that fits for your life so that you don't beat yourself up over blogging

Pace yourself!

Just do it... and not for the money

Don't do it for the money!

Just do it. Don't be held back by trying to make everything perfect. Over time, a body of work emerges.

Blogging can be very time consuming and very few will really make a decent amount of money for the time they invest, if you're going to blog do it for the love of writing!

Start it for yourself, not for what you think the world needs.

Don't expect to make much or any money.

Don't go into it thinking it will make you rich and famous. You'll likely be disappointed, and your readers will sense your true motive.

Don't expect money or readers to come, and try not to feel hurt when they don't.

Just do it. What have you got to lose?

Just do it! Don't think "nobody will read me - no one will care!" - WHO CARES?! As long as it's something you're passionate about and you love doing then it shouldn't matter if anyone at all reads it.

Have fun! Blog with your heart not with hopes for your pocketbook.

Don't start with the intention of making a big income.

Start small, be regular, and be yourself. You will last long enough to grow that way.

Technical stuff

Go with your own domain now - 'cause you're going to want to later. Don't look for "followers" - write from the heart and participate in the community. Let them find you.

Get some help from someone who knows what they are doing!!!

Buy your own URL and get self-hosted from the get-go.

Use a site that doesn't charge anything for domain name and has good editing tools and looks professional without much work. Then you can focus on what you say more than what your blog looks like...and looks ARE important, too.