



September Scoops4Scribes



The Value, Traits of a Ghostwriter

By some estimates, close to 60 percent of nonfiction books involve the work of a professional writer other than the author associated with the book. We're not just talking How To books, but everything from novels to memoir to thrillers (such as the 007 books that came out after Ian Fleming's passing). In some cases, the titled author chooses this approach when they have a great story to share, but lack time to write, or interest in learning the craft. In other cases, publishing houses seek out celebrities and such whose stories might interest readers, and connect them to a writer who conducts interviews and digs into story details in other ways.

Ghostwriters more routinely receive credit for their involvement these days, by being listed on a book's cover, acknowledgments, or elsewhere, or when a client allows the details to be shared to support that professional writer's success. Examples of this include *Spare*, by Prince Harry, ghostwritten by the same journalist who wrote *Open*, the memoir of Andre Aggasi, *Rich Dad, Poor Dad*, and *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

The titled author sometimes provides new or archival content for the book, as I have gained in the form of sermons in one case; or a client may truly be a co-writer. For more on the ghostwriting world, click the link to learn about the mindset of successful ghostwriters and other traits, including their interviewing and organizational capabilities.

Qualities of a Great Ghostwriter



Ways to Elevate and Error Test Content Yourself

When I wrote features full-time for more than a decade, I learned to sense that an article was nearing completion by feeling tired of looking at it. The same can happen with any content. Yet revisiting your text once the structure is fleshed out is wise, whether you are your own editor, or will be hiring one (as your early catches mean they can focus on other aspects, saving time, and potentially money).

Here are ideas for taking a fresh look at your work when you're bleary eyed or otherwise :

- Read the work out loud to hear what sounds clunky and disrupts content flow, where you or a character has stepped out of their voice, etc. Or run your work through text-to-speech software, such as naturalreaders.com, which gives you multiple "avatar" options, and has a free option.
- If you're at the final, final content stage (called proofreading), and the piece isn't too long, consider reading it from the last sentence to the first, which allows within-sentence errors to stand out more.
- Keep a check list of words you tend to misuse, and run a final "Find" for those, and also for double periods, double commas, and other potential punctuation glitches. For fun, you could also run your work through [free software](#) that give a readout of just your punctuation marks. The punctuation pattern revealed could also be used as a check of whether you rely heavily on a particular sentence style, which saps content energy, or overuse exclamation points and such.



Writing Tips & Treats

Writing insights are just a click away, as are behind-the-scene editing tips, ways to dig deeper into life experiences, and more. In each issue of Scoops4Scribes, you'll benefit from the bounty bookmarked for you.

Crafting Your Book Recap



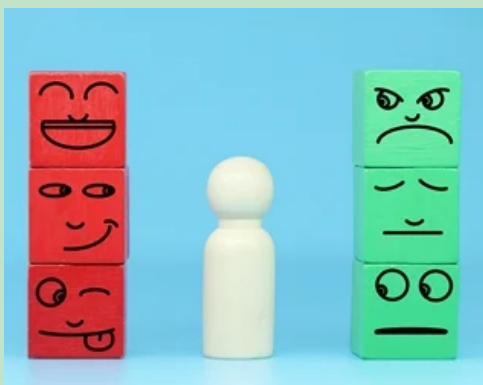
Learn how to recap your work in a few paragraphs for a synopsis submitted to agents, and as a step to audience testing the idea, to guide early drafts, and more.

Brief Writing Stints, Big Payoffs



An author shares how 10-minute writings were enough to develop the core content of a book, fueling the desire to complete it.

Effectively Mining Emotions



A concept from a Japanese martial art can help you manage emotions when interviewing, or writing about, charged topics.

Free Classic (Audio)books



Search from among thousands of free, public domain works that are in audio format on an online site that sorts by genre, length, and more (h/t to Jane Friedman's newsletter).

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