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English 11 Honors

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Career of Choice: Creative Writing

INTRODUCTION

My career of interest is in the field of creative writing. My interest in this career first began around Middle School. The experiences I had at Reyburn Intermediate were less than ideal, what with the constant ego-based bullying I suffered through, and the lack of support from those in charge. I would often use my imagination to escape from this torment, creating scenarios in which I did not have to suffer any longer. It had dawned on me how much I had enjoyed doing this, and I continued to do it. Around age 13, I had discovered a small Youtube channel by the name of “*KrimsonRogue*”, which revolved around movies that were adapted from literature, another pastime of mine. Its host would go in depth as to what made a good story and how sometimes that art is lost when adapted into different mediums, and how adapting those stories can sometimes make them better if the story wasn’t very good to begin with. Thanks to this, the scenarios I imagined became more fictional, and I began applying what I had learned from “*KrimsonRogue*”. Before I knew it, what I had created became too large and fantastical to keep inside my mind, and I began writing them down, hoping to flesh them out in the future, and done that I have, and do that I will continue to do.

CAREER DUTIES

Writers develop written content for different forms of media. This can range from literature to film to theatre. Whether or not they write fictional content is dependent on their current project. According to the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, a writer's content must be easy and enjoyable to read, and thorough research must have been conducted in order to establish credibility with their audience. ("Summary." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13 Apr. 2018, www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/writers-and-authors.htm.) Revision is necessary, and the author may act as their own editor, though credibility is greater when someone else does. They then sell their content to publishers of different media and profit from it.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Writers are most commonly self-employed, about 64% of all of them in fact. These are known as "Freelance writers", who can work just about anywhere. These writers have to pace themselves in order to adhere to their own schedules and deadlines. While writers mostly create content for entertainment, they may also write for scientific, technical, informational, artistic, argumentative, political, and religious reasons. According to "*All About Careers*", a writer's job is very solitary, and lacks in human interaction and security. However, it makes up for that with the immense freedom it offers, as writers are not restrained to any set workplace. ("All About Careers Ltd." *Graduate Jobs, Internships & School Leaver Jobs*,

www.allaboutcareers.com/careers/job-profile/writer.) Fortunately, most writers have the perfect personality to survive the solitude.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES

As with any occupation, not everyone is qualified for this one. Because a writer's work environment is their computer, they must be able to adapt to new software as their work environment changes as they work. Creativity and adequate writing skills of course also play a large role in this occupation. Writers must be able to develop compelling plots, characters, and scenarios, and effectively convey the tones and emotions of them through words. Projects like these are not easy to make, and sometimes take years to finish, so a writer needs the determination to do so. They also need to be critical of their own work, and able to understand and convey new concepts in it. According to the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, writers also need to be persuasive and socially perceptive, so they can understand how to convince audience to feel a certain way, and how they will react to certain ideas. ("Summary." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13 Apr. 2018 www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/writers-and-authors.htm.)

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCES

Most publishers and editors favor writers who have earned Bachelor's degrees. However, according to "*Creative Writer: Job Description and Requirements*", writers with English degrees are more likely to find opportunities that require creativity. "An English degree may lead to jobs that require creativity, research, writing and communication of ideas." (*Study.com*,

Study.com, study.com/articles/Creative_Writer_Job_Description_and_Requirements.html.)

English Majors also study literature from different eras all over the world, ranging from poetry, to novels, to drama. Graduate's degrees may lead to teaching and management careers, and Master's programs allow focus in fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction. A writer's education can end after obtaining a bachelor's degree, but the alternative routes offer even greater opportunities, some more than necessary. One college that offers some like that is Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

SALARIES

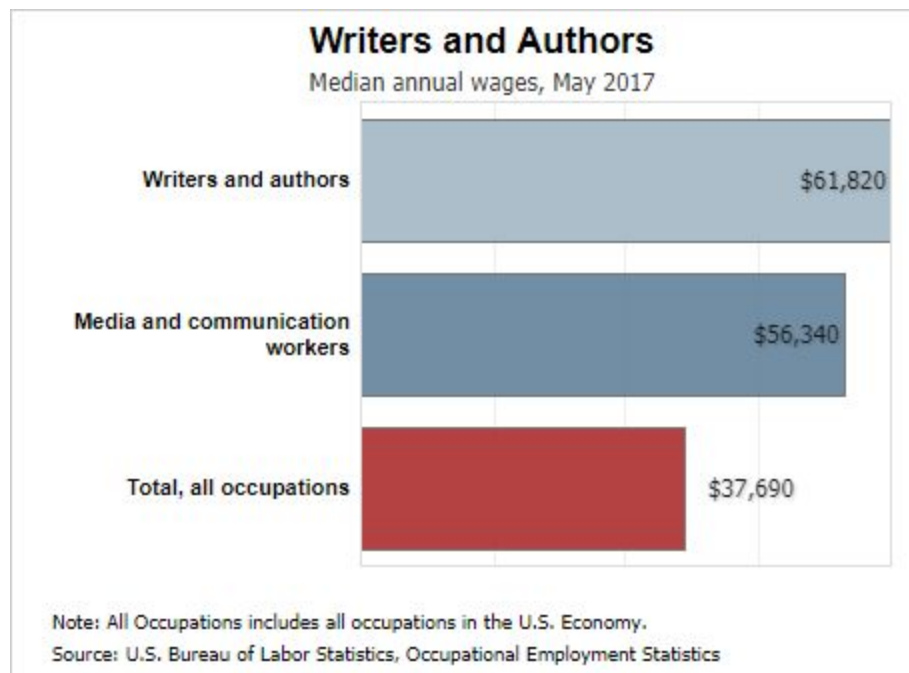
Writers tend to make a lot of money, in the U.S. anyway. According to "*Average Writer Salaries in the United States*" the national hourly wage for writers is approximately \$23.96.

"Salary estimates are based on 2,465 salaries submitted anonymously to Indeed by Writer employees, users, and collected from past and present job advertisements on Indeed in the past 36 months." ("Salaries." *Jobs*, Indeed,

www.indeed.com/salaries/Technical-Writer-Salaries,-California.) According to the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, their median annual wage as of May 2017 is about \$61,820, the lowest 10% is just under \$30,520, and the highest 10% is about \$118,760. ("Summary." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13 Apr. 2018, www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/writers-and-authors.htm.)

WRITERS AND AUTHORS: NATIONAL ANNUAL WAGES

| Lowest 10% | Median | Highest 10% |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| \$30,520 | \$61,820 | \$118,760 |

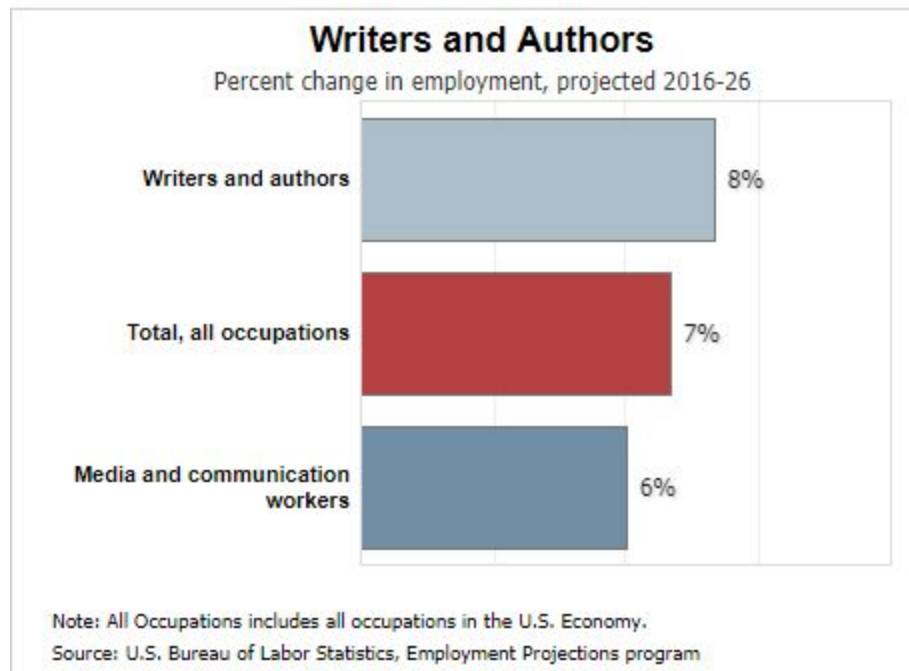


JOB OUTLOOK

Unexpectedly, the employment rate of writers and authors is growing. According to the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, it is expected to increase by 8% from 2016-2026. Due to the increasing number of online services, the need for competent writers with web experience has increased as well. This means an increase in competition as well, however, writers who are experienced with digital tools have better chances of finding work in this digital era.

(“Summary.” *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13 Apr. 2018, www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/writers-and-authors.htm.)

WRITERS AND AUTHORS: EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS



| Writers and Authors | Total, all occupations | Media and Communication Workers |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8% | 7% | 6% |

EDUCATION INSTITUTION OPTIONS

There are two educational paths one can take in order to become a writer, the first of which is to obtain a bachelor’s degree. This opens the door for early work and greater education, and publishers and editors tend favor those who have taken this path. The second option is to

obtain an English degree. This helps create opportunities that require more creativity. One could also obtain a Graduate's degree, which may lead to teaching or managing careers, or a Master's degree for greater education in creative writing, but those usually just help to accomplish the previous two sets of opportunities. According to *Peterson's College Information*, two in-state colleges that offer majors such as these are *Whittier College* in Whittier, California, and the *University of Southern California in Los Angeles*. These two were specifically chosen due to location and lack of competition. (*Peterson's*, Peterson's, [www.petersons.com/search/schools?searchtype=12&page=1&result=15&searchterm=writing majors&criteria=0-states:ca.](http://www.petersons.com/search/schools?searchtype=12&page=1&result=15&searchterm=writing%20majors&criteria=0-states:ca.))

CONCLUSION

I have already begun the first part of my story, and intend to continue expanding upon it until it is complete. The journey certainly will not be an easy one, but this career has existed for centuries, and is clearly possible. This is the perfect way to do what I have enjoyed since I was young. I will continue learning whatever I can, wherever I can, and if at all possible, I will apply it to my own creation. I will do anything I can to ensure that my passion does not exceed my skill. Without a doubt in my mind, I will pursue this career.

Works Cited

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