

Build Your Writing Ecosystem

101+ Possibilities for Writers Who Want to Look Sideways

A master list of ways your existing talents can connect to the modern writing world.



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Ghostwriter | Editor |

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How to use this list

This isn't a list of jobs you're supposed to add to your résumé. Think of it as a field guide. Some possibilities may become a business. Others may become a short-term project, a collaboration, a way to learn the industry, or a bridge toward the writing life you actually want.

Start with the things you already know how to do. Then notice which opportunities put you closer to the people, skills, readers, subjects, or communities you care about.

Research & Discovery

12 possibilities

1. Comp-title researcher

Research comparable books, authors, tropes, positioning, release dates, and reader response.

2. Market-gap researcher

Investigate whether a proposed book idea appears underserved, crowded, or unusually well-positioned.

3. Genre/trope researcher

Track current genre conventions, tropes, subgenres, and reader expectations.

4. Literary-agent researcher

Research agents, agencies, wish lists, recent sales, and submission fit.

5. Publisher/imprint researcher

Research publishers and imprints for fit, comparable titles, and submission requirements.

6. Historical researcher

Research periods, events, customs, terminology, and primary/secondary sources.

7. Geography & setting researcher

Research locations, neighborhoods, landscapes, travel logistics, and regional details.

8. Fact-checker

Verify factual claims, dates, names, quotations, technical details, and sources.

9. Expert/source finder

Locate qualified experts, archives, primary sources, organizations, or interview subjects.

10. Series/story-bible archivist

Build and maintain a master reference document for characters, timelines, locations, facts, and continuity across a series.

11. Genealogy/family-history researcher

Research family trees, records, places, and historical context for memoir or legacy projects.

12. Research-trip planner

Research and coordinate locations, contacts, travel logistics, permissions, and research agendas.

Reading, Editing & Story Sense

10 possibilities

13. Beta reader

Read a manuscript and provide structured reader feedback before publication.

14. Sensitivity reader

Review work involving a relevant lived/cultural identity or specialized community for accuracy and harmful stereotypes.

15. Developmental editor

Help an author strengthen structure, argument, pacing, character, or overall manuscript architecture.

16. Line editor

Work at the sentence and paragraph level for clarity, flow, voice, and consistency.

17. Copyeditor

Correct grammar, usage, punctuation, consistency, and style according to an agreed style guide.

18. Proofreader

Perform a final quality-control pass after layout/typesetting.

19. Continuity editor

Track details across a manuscript or series and flag contradictions.

20. Style-guide creator

Create a practical style sheet for an author, series, or publishing team.

21. Book coach

Guide an author through a manuscript or project with feedback, accountability, and decision support.

22. Memoir/story-development partner

Help nonfiction writers identify themes, scenes, structure, and missing material from lived experience.

Teaching & Knowledge Transfer

10 possibilities

23. Writing workshop facilitator

Teach a focused craft or writing topic to a group.

24. Writing instructor

Design and teach a recurring class or course.

25. Author accountability coach

Help writers establish goals, milestones, routines, and follow-through.

26. Course creator

Turn an author's existing expertise or body of work into a structured course.

27. Course curriculum designer

Design lessons, modules, exercises, assessments, and learning flow for someone else's course.

28. Workbook/guide creator

Turn a book or body of knowledge into exercises, reflection prompts, or a practical workbook.

29. Self-reflection/question designer

Create thoughtful prompts, self-evaluations, intake forms, or reflection tools for authors and readers.

30. Webinar/masterclass producer

Help an author turn expertise into a polished online teaching event.

31. Author-education content creator

Create tutorials, FAQs, handouts, or short educational resources from an author's expertise.

32. Guest lecturer/panel facilitator

Teach or moderate focused conversations for writing groups, conferences, libraries, or organizations.

Creative Makers & Book-World Extensions

11 possibilities

33. Author merchandise designer

Design or coordinate products inspired by an author's books, characters, themes, or brand.

34. Etsy shop setup/manager

Set up, organize, or maintain an author's Etsy storefront and product listings.

35. Print-on-demand merch manager

Set up or manage Redbubble or another print-on-demand shop and its catalog.

36. Character crochet/knit artist

Create physical character-inspired pieces for special editions, giveaways, or reader merchandise.

37. Setting shadow-box artist

Create miniature scenes or visual representations of settings from books.

38. Book-inspired puzzle creator

Develop or commission jigsaw or other puzzles based on a book's world or imagery.

39. Reader gift-box curator

Curate themed gift boxes for readers, launches, giveaways, or ARC teams.

40. Coloring-book creator

Turn suitable characters, motifs, settings, or themes into a coloring-book companion.

41. Recipe-book/companion creator

Develop a themed companion such as recipes, crafts, activities, or other nonfiction extensions inspired by a book.

42. Special-edition experience designer

Help create boxed sets, signed editions, inserts, collectibles, or reader experiences.

43. Illustrator/visual asset creator

Create maps, character art, diagrams, promotional graphics, or other book-related visual assets.

Writing for Other People & Platforms

10 possibilities

44. Ghostwriter

Write books, memoirs, articles, newsletters, speeches, or other material for a client.

45. Memoir collaborator

Help a person shape and write their life story while preserving their voice and ownership of the story.

46. Newsletter/Substack writer

Write recurring newsletters or essays for an author, expert, or organization.

47. Blog/guest-post writer

Create regular blog content or guest posts on behalf of an author or expert.

48. Podcast script/content writer

Research and write episode outlines, scripts, show notes, or recurring content.

49. Website copywriter

Write or refresh an author's website copy, landing pages, bios, FAQs, and sales pages.

50. Book proposal writer

Help nonfiction authors articulate a book concept, audience, platform, and proposal.

51. Author bio/speaker-bio writer

Create concise bios for websites, books, events, media, and speaking engagements.

52. Speech/keynote writer

Write speeches, presentations, or talks for authors and experts.

53. Reader magnet/freebie writer

Create useful short-form content that helps an author attract and retain readers.

Connecting, Community & Collaboration

10 possibilities

54. Anthology curator

Develop a theme and identify appropriate authors to invite as contributors.

55. Anthology project coordinator

Manage contributor communication, deadlines, files, and production logistics.

56. Newsletter-swap coordinator

Identify comparable authors and arrange mutually useful newsletter promotions.

57. Podcast guest-booking coordinator

Research shows, pitch authors, manage outreach, and coordinate appearances.

58. Book-club coordinator

Build and manage relationships with book clubs for author discussions, visits, or events.

59. Street-team/community manager

Recruit and coordinate a group of enthusiastic readers supporting an author or series.

60. ARC-team coordinator

Recruit, organize, brief, and communicate with advance readers.

61. Review-team coordinator

Manage review outreach, tracking, reminders, and follow-up within appropriate platform rules.

62. Conference/event coordinator

Help authors identify, prepare for, and manage relevant conferences or appearances.

63. Author-to-expert connector

Match authors with researchers, consultants, sensitivity readers, translators, or other specialists.

Marketing, Brand & Reader Growth

10 possibilities

64. Social-media manager

Manage an author's social presence, calendar, posting, engagement, or analytics.

65. TikTok/short-video specialist

Develop platform-specific content and strategy for authors who want help with short-form video.

66. LinkedIn specialist

Help nonfiction authors or experts build a professional presence and content strategy on LinkedIn.

67. Author brand strategist

Clarify an author's positioning, audience, visual/message consistency, and public-facing identity.

68. PR/media outreach assistant

Research media opportunities, prepare pitches, and coordinate outreach.

69. Launch coordinator

Create and manage launch timelines, assets, tasks, and communications.

70. Contest/giveaway manager

Plan and administer reader contests, giveaways, and promotional campaigns.

71. Reader survey designer

Create useful reader surveys and help an author interpret responses.

72. Award-nomination researcher

Identify appropriate awards, deadlines, eligibility, and submission requirements.

73. Bookstore/library outreach coordinator

Research and contact appropriate bookstores, libraries, and community organizations.

Digital Presence, Technology & AI Workflows

10 possibilities

74. Author website manager

Maintain pages, links, images, bios, books, events, and basic site hygiene.

75. Website refresh specialist

Help modernize an outdated author website without requiring a full rebuild.

76. AI-discoverability consultant

Help authors understand how their public web presence can be made clearer and more useful to AI-driven discovery systems.

77. Newsletter setup specialist

Set up or improve an email list, forms, welcome sequences, and basic segmentation.

78. Reader-segment funnel builder

Create separate signup or nurture paths for different series, genres, or reader interests.

79. Automation/workflow consultant

Connect tools and automate repetitive administrative or marketing tasks.

80. AI workflow consultant

Help authors use AI tools for research organization, brainstorming support, administrative work, or production workflows without replacing the author's authorship.

81. Source/library organization specialist

Set up systems for organizing research, notes, sources, and reference material in tools such as NotebookLM or equivalent platforms.

82. Wikipedia/project research coordinator

Help determine whether an author meets relevant notability standards and organize legitimate source material for an appropriate encyclopedia submission.

83. Goodreads/profile manager

Help maintain accurate book/author information and reader-facing profiles on relevant platforms.

Audio, Translation & Global Publishing

10 possibilities

84. Audiobook project consultant

Help an author understand narration, production, rights, budgets, timelines, and distribution choices.

85. Audiobook production coordinator

Coordinate narrators, editors, proof listeners, engineers, files, deadlines, and deliverables.

86. Audiobook narrator

Narrate fiction or nonfiction where the narrator's voice, training, and fit are appropriate.

87. Voice actor/character performer

Provide character voices or performance for suitable audio projects and promotional material.

88. Audio proof listener

Listen against the manuscript and identify errors, omissions, pronunciation issues, or production problems.

89. Audiobook distribution guide

Help authors compare legitimate distribution options and understand the practical differences.

90. Translation coordinator

Locate translators, manage communication, and coordinate the human review process for translated editions.

91. Bilingual localization editor

Review translated work for natural language, cultural context, terminology, and consistency when qualified to do so.

92. International ARC/outreach coordinator

Build relationships with qualified international readers, reviewers, or promotional partners.

93. Subsidiary-rights research assistant

Research translation, audio, international, or other rights opportunities and organize relevant information.

Business, Finance, Legal & Production

10 possibilities

94. Author bookkeeper

Maintain financial records and organize income/expense information for an author business.

95. Royalty/income tracker

Track payments, royalties, invoices, and income streams across platforms and projects.

96. Tax-preparation support

Provide bookkeeping or tax-related support within the person's professional qualifications and local legal rules.

97. Contract administrator

Track agreements, deadlines, deliverables, renewals, and rights-related paperwork; legal advice should remain with qualified counsel.

98. Paralegal/legal-support service

Provide appropriate document or administrative support within a paralegal's scope and applicable rules.

99. Rights/reversion research assistant

Organize contracts and research rights status or reversion questions for an author to discuss with qualified counsel.

100. Book formatter

Format ebooks or print interiors according to platform and production requirements.

101. Cover designer

Create or coordinate professional cover art appropriate to genre and market expectations.

102. Interior designer/typesetter

Design readable print interiors, workbooks, special editions, or nonfiction layouts.

103. Direct-sales setup specialist

Help an author set up legitimate direct sales infrastructure, product pages, fulfillment workflows, and basic customer communications.

Accessibility, Legacy & Specialized Audiences

10 possibilities

104. Accessibility reviewer

Review digital or print materials for accessibility issues within the person's training and scope.

105. Large-print/accessible edition coordinator

Help coordinate production of accessible or large-print editions with qualified vendors.

106. Children's-book specialist

Advise on age-appropriate presentation, educational extensions, activity ideas, or child-reader considerations when qualified.

107. Nonfiction research assistant

Support experts and authors with source gathering, organization, citation tracking, and background research.

108. Legacy/memoir project coordinator

Help families or individuals organize interviews, documents, photographs, and production logistics for a legacy project.

109. Oral-history interviewer

Conduct and organize recorded interviews for family, community, institutional, or memoir projects.

110. Book-to-experience designer

Develop talks, workshops, activities, discussion guides, or other experiences based on a book.

111. Membership/community program manager

Build and administer a paid or free reader community, membership, or recurring program.

112. Crowdfunding campaign manager

Help plan, organize, and administer a legitimate crowdfunding campaign for a book or book-related project.

113. Author concierge/project assistant

Provide a flexible package of administrative, research, scheduling, and logistical support tailored to one author's recurring pain points.

A few questions to take with you

- What am I already good at that authors routinely need?
- What do I genuinely enjoy spending time doing?
- Which parts of publishing, storytelling, or the author business fascinate me?
- What kind of writers, readers, or publishing professionals do I want around me?
- Which possibility could give me useful skills, relationships, or industry knowledge for the writing life I want?
- What could I test on a small scale before deciding whether it belongs in my ecosystem?



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