

Novelist: Taking You To New Places Without You Ever Leaving Your Home

A novelist is a creative writer that specializes in long fiction writing (“What Is”). They create fictional characters and then they put them in an imaginary setting (What Does”), and they must also express their ideas in a clear and logical way (“Novelist”). In May 2008, the middle 50 percent of annual wages for writers earned between \$38,150 and \$75,060 (“Earnings”). The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$28,020, and the highest 10 percent earned more than 106,630 (“Earnings”). The hourly wage for the lowest 10 percent is \$13.50, for the middle 50 percent, it is \$25.91, and for the highest 10 percent it’s \$50.82 (“Wages”). The process of becoming a novelist requires hard work, advanced planning, the ability to be professional and sell your work, and the ability to handle stress well; but it is very rewarding.

Writing a novel can take anywhere from a few months to a few years. For most novelist jobs, the person is required to have a college degree in communications, journalism or English (“Requirements”). Although, Matthew Warner, novelist, of Staunton, Virginia says he thinks that the only “requirements” for becoming a novelist are “a mastery of the English language, knowledge of story craft, professionalism, a willingness to learn, and some luck” and that there are no special classes needed, but they can certainly help (Warner). He took as many creative writing classes as he could in college, though, and said it was a good experience (Warner). He also said it took him years to work himself up to writing novels (Warner). He first started out writing short stories for magazines, articles for newspapers and, occasionally, other pieces of writing that were never published, but said that there are some novelists that write their first

novel, send it in to a publisher, and then they're published and become successful (Warner). He also said that the process of editing and publishing also take a long time (Warner). “For a novelist, the most basic process is that you: (1) write something, (2) submit it to a market where you're in competition with other writers for a limited number of publishing slots, (3) negotiate terms with the publisher, (4) go through an editing process with the publisher to prepare it for publication, and (5) help to promote the novel once it's published” (Warner). A novelist can get published anywhere from never to every few months (Warner). His book, Blood Born, coming out in January, was written four years ago, but is just now coming out because of the time it took to write, edit, and publish it (Warner). He says that the ideal time for writing a novel is three to six months (Warner).” Any shorter, and the quality suffers because you're rushing. Any longer, and you become sick of it” (Warner). Sonar4 Publications, who are publishing Blood Born, teamed him up with a freelance copy editor (Warner). Most novelists work from home and usually have another job that they do on the side (“Novelist”). Warner works with his wife, Deena, and is a partner in Deena Warner Design LLC, which is a design business for print and web (“Biography”).

Planning, competition, and royalties are just some of the aspects that go along with being a novelist. Planning ahead is the key to a good story. Rushing to the computer to start writing can be a huge mistake (“Mastering”). It takes time to learn the skills of being a novelist, like creating suspense and learning how to make the story flow well (“Mastering”). Every novel must create suspense (“Suspense”). Suspense must start from the beginning and continue until the climax of the story (“Suspense”).

Every suspenseful moment must move the story forward (“Suspense”). The internet is a great place that some novelists use to publish their work if a publisher rejects them (“Novelist”). It's also a great place for young writers who haven't even considered becoming a novelist to publish their work (“Novelist”). Then, a writer must compete with other writers to get published because there are very few publishing slots (“Competition”). Once they are published and their books start selling, novelists get paid royalties. Royalties are a percentage of the profits from each copy of their book sold, usually around 10 percent (“Royalties”).

Being a novelist is hard work, but in the end it's rewarding. Being a successful novelist takes hard work and they must be willing to handle disappointments as well as success (“Can”). Warner said that the most rewarding thing about being a novelist is when someone tells you that they stayed up all night reading your story, but he also said that the hardest thing about being a novelist is the commitment of writing because a short novel starts at 70,000 words, but many novels are longer than that (Warner).

While being a novelist has its ups and downs, it really is a great career for people who love to write. Most writers recommend starting to write now, as it is very hard and takes a lot of practice to master the skills needed to be successful in this career (“Novelist”). Warner said he has, in fact, considered giving up and not writing anymore, saying, “Once, while in the deepest, darkest despair that came on the heels of a simultaneous rejection and a deal falling through. Yeah, it's tough. You would think that after so many years of dealing with rejection that it would become routine and I would have pretty good emotional defenses, but things still get to me sometimes. I'm

still plugging away, though; haven't given up yet.” (Warner). Even though becoming a novelist is hard work, it is very rewarding and a great career for people who love to write.

Thesis: The process of becoming a novelist requires hard work, advanced planning, the ability to be professional and sell your work, and the ability to handle stress well, but it is also very rewarding

I. Writing a novel can take anywhere from a few months to a few years

A. A novelist specializes in long fiction writing. They create fictional characters and put them in an imaginary setting. They have to express their ideas in a clear and logical way.

B. The “requirements” of becoming a novelist are a college degree in communications, journalism, or English, and a mastery of the English language.

II. C. The process of editing has a lot to do with the publisher. Some do a lot, others don't do anything.

D. The process of publishing is quite hard and takes time. The average novelist can get published anywhere from never to a every few months.

III. Planning, competition, and royalties are just some of the aspects that go along with being a novelist.

A) Planning ahead is the key to a good story. Good novels aren't written in one day with no planning done.

B) A writer must compete with other writers because there are very few publishing slots.

C) Novelists get paid royalties, a percentage of the profits from each copy of their book sold. It's usually around 10 percent and depends on how well the book is doing and how many copies are being sold.

IV. Being a novelist is hard work, but in the end it's rewarding.

A) "What's the most rewarding thing about being a novelist?" Matthew Warner says "when someone tells you they stayed up all night reading your story."

B) Being a successful novelist takes hard work and they must be willing to handle disappointments as well as success, but it is possible to make a living as a novelist.

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