

Location Rebel

Everything You Need To Become a Highly-Paid Freelancer in 48 Hours

The Freelancing Toolkit

Introduction

Passive Income, Niche Sites, Tropical Islands - that's what people think of (and what most of them want) when they think about starting a business online.

All of those things are great, and the passive income holy grail is attainable, but for most people? It's not the best place to start.

Let me let you in on a little secret:

The easiest way to make money online is through freelancing.

For the first 4 years after leaving my job, I primarily paid the bills through freelance writing and SEO. Nearly all of our most successful Location Rebel Academy members started with freelance writing too.

And it's what I recommend you do too. In fact, I like to call it my three step process:

- Learn Skills
- Find Freelance Clients
- Apply to Your Own Projects

This guide covers some of the absolute basics and most important things to consider as you're beginning to think about a budding freelance career.

Can it really be done in 48 hours? After you've read through this book, you can implement the basics and get started in a weekend. Sure there's a lot more to learn, but this will get you going down the right path.

I can't wait to talk to you more soon.

12 Strategies for Finding More Freelance Work

Here's a confession: getting new freelance work can be hard.

Super established freelancers often have this down pat.

But, if you're new to the game, more often than not it's *this* part of the process that's going to give you the most frustration.

Which kinda sucks because, you know, it's preeeeeetttty important!

Without clients, it's really hard to make any money, unless you've got passive income coming in or a successful hobby hacking business up and running.

The advice can be kind of vague too. Believe me, I know, I've given it myself.

Below you're going to find 12 ways to get more clients and freelance work. These are real deal, tried and true methods that have worked for me, Sean, and hundreds of other people in our Location Rebel community.

You might find a handful stand out to you, or hey, you might have a few other ways I haven't mentioned (if that's the case, feel free to share in the comments!).

Hopefully, with this post, you're going to come away with some concrete approaches to getting new clients that you can put into action today.

1. Using Job Boards to Find More Clients

You hear a lot about the UpWork's of the world, but there's a whole world

out there with lots of options. Some courses and groups will post job boards too, we have a mini job board in Location Rebel Academy, for example.

There are lots of good job boards out there where you can snag some good clients. I've got two clients I've been working with for years off the ProBlogger job board.

Remember the main thing with job boards is that you're competing against a lot of other people. That means if you send off a cut and paste generic email or cover letter you're not going to stand out.

Here are a few things I like to do when applying for work off a job board that has helped me land some pretty good gigs:

- Read all the instructions: Yup, seriously. If someone tells you to put "I love mangoes" in your headline. Do it.
- Think of their needs first: Most of the time, the client doesn't care about your hobbies or where you went to school, they want someone who can get the job done at a high level reliably. Prove you can do that.
- **Keep it short and to the point:** I applied for a job the other day where the request was to keep my entire 'pitch' to 5 sentences. I did that, got thanked for following directions and have moved on to the second round.
- Add value somewhere: Since I'm a writer, I usually pitch content ideas and sometimes just headlines to make them more intrigued. Take a good look at their site and come up with 2-3 ways you can help them right now that will make you stand out.

Work on a good pitch email and save it. You're going to come back to it often. Tweak it and keep track of what works and what doesn't.

Action Step:

Find the best job boards in your industry and schedule time in your calendar each week to browse them. If you're a freelance writer, check out some of the boards in this post on places to find freelance writing work.

2. Friends and Family Often Have More Work Than You'd Expect

Congrats, you're in business, so tell people!

Advertise to your friends and family that you've got your own business up and running and you're looking for work. At the very start, you might be able to cut a deal with people where you'll do a bit of work for a reduced rate. That's one way to get going in your freelance career.

Don't go crazy with this, keep it simple. Remember, outside of the online world bubble most 'regular' people have no idea what you do. So explain it to them simply in a way that makes it easy to understand.

Here's an example, set up a Facebook post that says something like:

Hey everyone! For the last few months, I've been writing for law firms and have gotten really positive responses. I'd love to keep expanding my client base in this area. If you know anyone who has any law firm connections here, I'd love if you gave me a shoutout.

Lots of times there will be a friend of a friend who happens to be in need of what you're offering. So don't be shy putting yourself out there. Your friends and family are going to be great allies in helping you get the word out.

Action Step:

Get connecting. Hop on the phone, send a text, shoot out an email, post on Snapchat. Let your friends and family know that you're looking for clients and would love if they could let people know.

3. Ask Your Network if They Know Anyone Who Needs Help

This is basically the same as above, but instead of asking friends and family ask your network. Let people who are in the online world know that you're looking for work. Jump on forums, let people in your mastermind group know, post in your Facebook groups, don't be shy.

It's also pretty common for me to get an email from someone in my network asking if I know someone who can do a small gig or if I know any new writers. So I've recommended people are super active in the LR forums and doing good work (hint,

hint).

Don't underplay the ability to find small projects from people. Not every job, especially to start, has to be a five-figure gig. I love taking smaller projects and over delivering, that puts me in great standing for either more follow up work from the same person, or I'm at the top of the list of potential referrals.

Start small, knock it out of the park, and you'll have a much better standing to come back and ask for more work (more on that below).

Action Step:

Make a list of people in your immediate network who have some online experience or have a bigger network than you do. Work on building a relationship with them and then make the ask to see if they need help on any projects.

4. Ask Current Clients for Referrals

This is something I'm kinda shocked that people don't do more often. If you have even one client right now who is paying you for your work then you should ask them if they can refer you to anyone else.

It doesn't have to be a competitor or even in the same industry. If you're a writer or a social media pro, SEO person, or web designer you can do work across a number of industries.

Here's a sample letter you can start with. Make sure to tweak it to make it as personal as possible:

Hi Current Client,

I've enjoyed working with you on your email marketing campaigns. If you've been happy with the work I've done, I hope you'd be willing to pass my name along to anyone else you know who is in need of similar work. Do you have anyone in mind?

Thanks.

A referral is a warm lead. A potential new client is going to be much more receptive

to you if they know you were referred by someone they already know and trust.

Action Step:

This week (today) ask your current clients for referrals. This post has some good tips you can use. Then, set a calendar reminder to do the same thing again next quarter. Repeat as necessary.

5. Ask Current Clients for More Freelance Work

Remember when I said how I love taking on small projects to start? That's because it provides the perfect opportunity to ask for more work once the job is done.

I've been able to take a number of clients who hired me for one-off writing gigs and transform them into extended jobs with thousands of dollars of extra work.

For this to work well you need to have a strategy. Mine is to essentially remind clients that I'm great to work with and deliver good work.

I use a three-pronged approach to set the stage:

- 1. The primary goal is to deliver what they want. If you can't do this, they aren't going to care about working with you again. I make sure I'm giving them something that they are going to be really happy with. First impressions matter here.
- 2. **I surprise and delight.** This means I will do something special. That might be delivering the project a day early or adding something special to the content like a case study while keeping it the same price.
- 3. I'm easy to work with. Everyone says this about themselves, but it's not always true. That means I respond quickly to emails, communicate effectively, am open to suggestions and feedback, quickly make any necessary tweaks, and stay friendly and positive throughout.

Once I've done all that it pretty much ensures that the client is happy. Sometimes, they might offer you more work on the spot. If they don't, that's fine, I always follow up with an email citing all the other ways I can help them.

Something like this:

Hey Client,

I know you hired me for one article a month. But, I wanted to also let you know I can help you with copywriting, email campaigns, ebooks, white papers and long form guides too. I took a look at the opt-in on plumbing fixtures, and have a couple ideas on how it could be improved to really wow readers. Can I send over an outline?

Thanks.

You

Since I've already laid the groundwork during the first project, it's basically like having a warm lead. A lot of times, this works for me. It might not be right away, but a month or so down the line they come back for more.

Action Step:

Make a list of your current skillset. Work on expanding on just one or two of them over time so you're comfortable offering them since you know you can deliver. Use these extra skills to help showcase how much extra value you can add to your client beyond what they hired you for.

6. Keep in Touch with Past Clients

Some clients might work on a project basis. I have one that works this way. He might send a request for 3-4 things for me to write and call it a day. Sometimes, I'll hear back from him a few weeks later with more work, other times it might be a few months.

When it gets to the two-month range and I haven't heard from him, I send a super quick follow up email. It looks like this:

Hey Client,

Hope all is well. I wanted to check in and touch base. I have some available time over the next few weeks, happy to get started on any writing work you might need.

Liz

You can also try a modified version of asking for more work for this too.

If they don't have any work at this time, that's ok (remember, stay friendly!), just repeat the process at a later date.

Action Step:

Make a list of all the clients you've worked with in the past. Send an email to each of them like the one above asking if they have more work for you. Once any project finishes set a future date on your calendar to follow up with that client.

7. Being Active on Social Media is a Great Way to Find Work

Let potential clients know you're currently for hire on your social media channels too. Post it in your social media bios.

If you do a quick search of 'hire me" on Twitter and click people, you can see all sorts of bios with people who have that in there.

You can do the same, or set up an automated post that cycles through every few weeks letting people know you're for hire and looking for work.

Also, use social media to search for jobs too.

I've come across a bunch of potential clients or writing opportunities on Twitter. Sometimes editors of sites will announce they are looking for pitches and to get in touch. Some I've applied to myself to varying degrees of success. I also try to

re-Tweet anything I see that comes my way and then also post in the LRA forums.

I've also really gotten into LinkedIn lately as I've been focusing more on B2B

brands. It's a great place to both find work and build a network. As I've written more content on there I've had my connections grow and have been approached a

handful of times about potential writing work.

There's no rhyme or reason to this exactly, but keep your eyes peeled. And make

sure you either follow or have created a list of people in your ideal niche. Lots of times they will share posts from others, so word can spread.

Action Step:

Go to search.twitter.com and do searches of all the hiring phrases you can think of. Try 'we're hiring' or 'work with us' for general searches. Also get specific about what you're looking for, i.e. editing, photoshop, translation, etc.

8. Go to Networking Events (Even if You Hate Networking)

Sean has always been a big proponent of this one. When he was first back from Asia and looking for freelance SEO work, he'd go to networking events for complementary industries. He's told the story of how he went to one meetup for social media pros and got offered 3 freelance SEO gigs on the spot.

Think about it this way, if you're a writer looking for a job, you might want to hit up a graphic design meetup. Chances are these people have clients who are looking for writers in addition to needing design work.

For freelancing roles like writing, copy, SEO, email marketing, conversion optimization, web design and development, you can hit up pretty much any sort of meetup and encounter a few people who are likely going to need your services at some point.

Action Step:

Scour sites like meetup.com for local events. Starting in your hometown is a great way to get your feet wet. If you live in or near a big city there will be tons of

opportunities. Also, tap into your chamber of commerce and see what they've got

cooking. Any members are all active businesses who are invested in connecting with other local brands.

9. Special Interest Groups Can Be a Goldmine for

Freelance Jobs

It seems counterintuitive, but you can get a lot of freelance job opportunities by joining groups of people who do what you do. Rather than thinking that you're always going to be competing against each other, it's actually the opposite, especially with more successful freelancers.

I'm in two groups for writers.

One is paid, so you get a higher caliber of freelancer, everyone in there is a professional writer who has been doing it for years. Many of them will post up the information of new people who reached out to them that they can't take, or old clients that they are moving on from as they get paid more.

The other is only for women freelance writers. A huge portion of this group is just posting jobs, some because they are the contact person, others that they happen to see online. I was able to get on a contributors list for a pretty big name site through a posting in this group.

Facebook is a great place to start for this. I typed in "Freelance writer" and searched groups and came across dozens of groups to join.



Do a search for your niche and you're likely to come at least one group you can join.

Action Step:

Look for groups in your niche. If they are paid, that can even be better because people in there are serious about it. Be active in the forums, and helpful. Make yourself seen and potential work can come your way. If you want to learn more

about building a following through Facebook groups, check out this post.

10. Create a Partnership Network

Referrals aren't just for clients, you can also create your own network around people with different skillsets. I learned this idea from Peter Bowerman of the *Well Fed Writer*, check out this podcast he did on the concept.

If you're in a mastermind group with a writer, web designer, copywriter, and social media manager (find more common Location Rebel friendly jobs here), then you've got the makings of the perfect team right there.

Use your group to pass along the referrals of the clients you work with. If you're a writer and your client needs a designer, mention you have the perfect person and so on. You can work out a fee structure if you want, say 15% for referrals to make sure everyone is getting something out of it.

Action Step:

Make a list of people in your current circle with complementary skills that you can

get one of these networks up and running with. Get in touch and work out an agreement that is fair to both parties.

11. Cold Pitching

Yuck. No one likes this one, right?

The mere thought of having cold pitching next up on my to-do list after lunch used to have me shaking.

The truth is, cold pitching is a pretty solid part of any marketing plan.

As much as everyone hates to do this, it's part of the business until you have a stockpile of warm leads to work from.

If you feel a lot of stress at even the thought of cold pitching, the worst thing you can do is avoid it.

I really feel like this is like building muscle. You start small, maybe it's one a day, and

build up your confidence (plus your ability to accept rejection) and build from there.

I like to do this by starting locally. At the very least, you have the connection of living in the same area, that tends to hold more weight to a potential client than a cold pitch from across the country.

Plus, I'm a big fan of getting in touch with those 'unsexy' local brands that can actually end up being quite lucrative. If you want some advice on your cold pitches,

check out the Bonus section.

Action Step:

Start making a list of local companies to pitch. A great place to get information is by checking out the website of your local chamber of commerce. Look at sites like Manta and LimeLeads too.

12. Apprenticeships or Remote Work

Personally, I'm a big fan of the apprenticeship model (it's how I got this job!). I think by working with someone who knows what they are doing as an apprentice you can actually learn a ton, build a huge network, and get paid at the same time.

Sounds like a winning proposition, right?

So keep your eyes peeled for these because there are a ton of opportunities out there.

Lots of entrepreneurs today actually advertise for these. A site like Get

Apprenticeship has a newsletter with available listings. You can also build up a really good relationship with someone whose work you admire and go for the ask

too.

Much the same can be said for remote work. Sometimes, these situations are the best of both worlds. You can find a steady job but have the freedom to work from

home. These are becoming more and more popular, so don't discount them as a viable option!

Action Step:

Look for the people who are doing what you'd like to be doing in the future. Don't aim for the big shots, but the people who are a few steps ahead of you. Reach out and start building a relationship so you can ask about being an apprentice. For remote jobs, pay attention to job boards and social media to start.

Time to Start Searching for More Freelance Jobs!

Hopefully, you now have some good ideas of where to look for clients and some solid action steps to help you find more freelance work.

The hardest part of doing this is sending out those first few requests. But it's a lot like building a muscle, the more you do it, the more second nature it will become.

Make a weekly (yes, weekly) plan to hunt for work. You don't want to let up on this, especially at the start, or you're going to run into dry spells. As you get more experienced and grab some really good clients, you need to always be looking for work can dramatically decrease.

How to Leverage LinkedIn to Find Freelance Clients

You might be ignoring one of the best tools out there for finding new clients.

What is it?

LinkedIn.

Now before you yawn and say it's some boring place to post your resume, hold up.

LinkedIn is actually the 4th most popular social media site out there, behind Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.

It's also chock full of business people, which is why it's important for our needs.

These are people who work at companies and those companies hire freelancers and remote workers.

See where I'm going with this?

I often think LinkedIn is one of those forgotten sites for most freelancers because they associate LinkedIn with the 9-5 world. But, honestly, that would be a mistake. The more I've gotten into LinkedIn the more I like it.

If you're into finding more quality leads and especially if you're in the B2B (business to business) world, there is no excuse for you not to be on the site right now.

Just in the last six months alone, I've secured two quality writing jobs off LinkedIn and have connected with a number of other people. So, now's the time to start

exploring it.

In this post, I'm going to give an overview of LinkedIn and how to get started on the site.

The Basics of LinkedIn

LinkedIn was started in 2003 and now has 500 million users and 10 million active job postings on the site.

It has all the main functions of every other social media site you know and love. You can create your own profile, connect (and network) with others, send messages, chat with other online users, join groups, and post content. So if you're already familiar with a site like Facebook, you're good to go.

Where LinkedIn can stand out is helping you build your personal brand, which is key for freelancers. Everyone on the site is there because they want to build relationships with other people in the business arena.

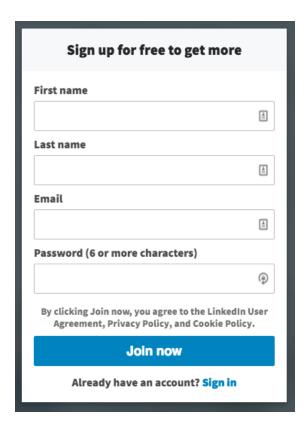
You can use LinkedIn for any sort of freelance work you do. Businesses all over the world need writers, social media managers, web designers, video producers, consultants, bookkeepers, you name it.

LinkedIn allows you to form a network of people in your niche or industry and this network is an absolute killer source of finding jobs and clients. So you don't want to miss out on this.

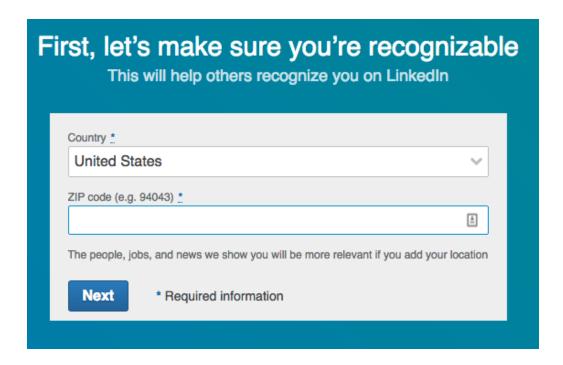
But in order to really take advantage of everything the site has to offer, you need to get yourself set up.

Getting Set Up

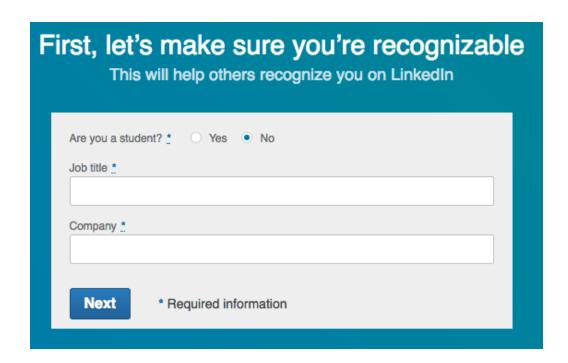
First things first head over to LinkedIn to sign up.



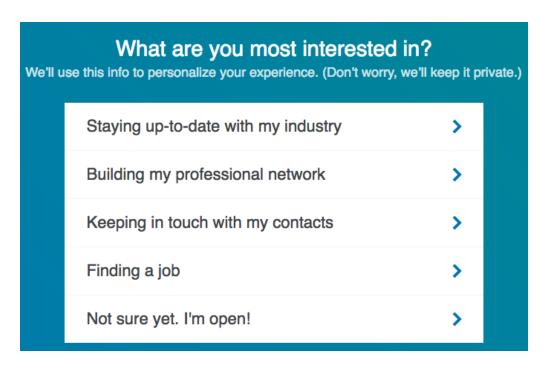
Next, you'll be asked to verify your location. In an ideal world, you'll be making connections everywhere, but I've actually found that starting local can be a big boost.



Then you'll be asked for your job title and company.



Remember, this is a business orientated site. If you're freaking out that you don't have a company, all you have put here is your website URL.



Finally, they'll ask you what you want to use LinkedIn for. Don't worry so much about this part, there are no wrong answers! For most people, it will be building a network or finding a job.

Once you do this, you'll be asked to confirm your email. Then you'll be offered the option to do things like download the app, connect with people in your email, and add an image. You can do all these at once, or skip for now and do them later on. I'd suggest you can skip for the time being.

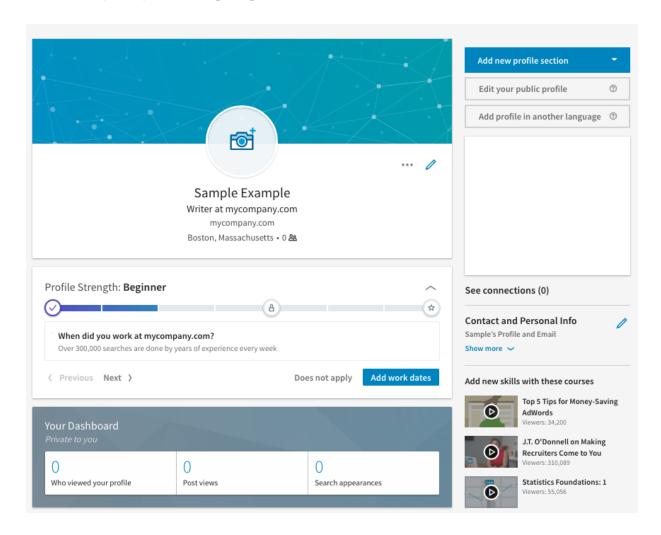
Your Profile

Your profile is the *most important* part of LinkedIn, you have to nail this in order to really see some traction on this site.

So you do not want to skimp out on this. (Imagine I put those clapping hands emojis between each of the words in that sentence).

In this section, I'm going to dig into how to build a LinkedIn profile that people (including prospective clients) will want to click.

Here's what your profile is going to look like:



Do not leave it looking like this any longer than you have to.

So let's look at the basics first.

There basically nine major areas that comprise your profile. You want to optimize each of these to get the best results.

And when I say optimize, yup, I'm even talking about optimizing for keywords.

LinkedIn uses an algorithm just like your favorite search engine to find people. So, you want to know exactly what keywords the people you want to work with and connect with are going to be searching and use those all over your profile.

Now, let's take a look at each of these on their own.

Photos

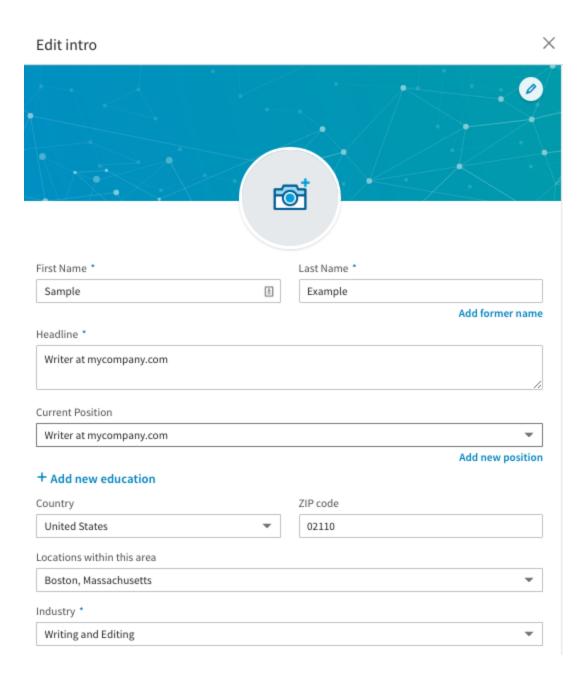
Start with your photo. Click on the image of the camera right in the middle of your profile and you'll be asked to upload a photo.

Use a professional headshot, if possible.

If you don't have this then a nice clear photo of you smiling is a good option. Don't include anything where you're at the beach shirtless or holding a beer, or anything like that, keep it to a photo you'd be happy to show your mom.

You can also include a header photo as well if you'd like. To edit that, click the little pencil icon. A new box will pop up where you can edit all of your main profile information.

It looks like this:



Pay attention to this box because I'm going to refer to it throughout the rest of this post.

Name

This should be self-explanatory, but you never know, so I'm including it here. Use your actual name, don't be a weirdo and stuff some random keywords in here.

If you're still in your current 9-5 and worried that people might find you then you might consider using your initials or middle name as your first name just to give yourself a bit more privacy.

Headline

This is the first thing everyone sees so you have to nail this, make it engaging and interesting, something that grabs attention right away, also include the keywords you want to target.

As you can guess, "Writer at mycompany.com" is a terrible headline.

It's better to say something like, "I write content that helps medical supply companies improve sales." A headline like this works for a couple of reasons:

- You tell people exactly what you do
- You include the keyword of people you are targeting (medical supply companies)
- You sweeten the pot with something businesses like improving sales

Be creative here. You can even include your phone and email in your headline if you want people to be able to contact you straight away.

Also, test! If something isn't getting you any bites, change it up.

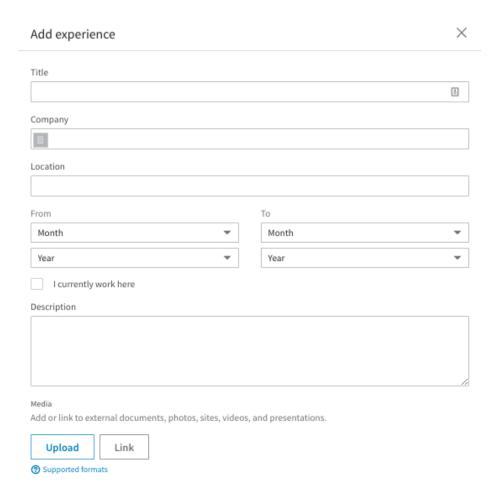
This is a great post on how to improve your LinkedIn headlines.

Current Position

Again, self-explanatory. When you filled out this information as you were creating your LinkedIn account it became the drop down option, so it's pretty much set.

Experience

This is the traditional 'resume' portion of your LinkedIn account, so you want to include all of the experience you have. Click the blue link that says 'Add a New Experience' and you'll get this pop up:



You can include not only gigs you've been doing as a freelancer but your background employment as well. There's no doubt your past job roles have some skills you've picked up that are useful.

For example, my 9-5 work experience is in finance, so even though I've been freelancing for a few years now, I include that experience because I do a lot of financial writing. So my prior employment history actually helps showcase my expertise in the areas I'm writing about.

You really want to be as detailed as you can be here (and don't forget to include a few of those keywords you want to target).

Another cool feature of LinkedIn is that they allow you to include uploads and links in your experience section. If you do, website design, for example, this is awesome because you can highlight some of your portfolios here to grab attention right away.

Education

Whatever educational degrees you have, enter them here.

Mostly, this is great for connecting with others from your past schools. Remember, any little thing can help when you're trying to connect with lots of people. Fellow alumni are likely going to be more willing to click that 'accept' button on your requests.

Summary

This is the heart of your profile.

You have 2000 characters to tell people who you are, what you do, and why they should hire you above others. Don't be afraid to really show off here. You can add media to this section too, so that includes links and screenshots.

The key thing you want to think about here when it comes to your summary is that you're using it to attract your ideal customers. So you don't want to actually make it all about your life story.

Instead, you want to create a summary that very clearly highlights how you can help a brand get results. Be bold, use specific results if you can, upload social media shares for your articles, or keyword results, how you were able to increase opt-ins, etc. Anything you can do to prove you can help them make more sales is going to go a long way.

You can really think of this as sort of your website homepage 2.0. Use the same sort of language here as you did there.

Here, we can actually look to LinkedIn to help us out with some examples. This post on their business blog shows some profiles that they love.

Additional Sections

The above sections are what LinkedIn wants you to fill out.

But we're overachievers, right? We like to go above and beyond, so now it's time to add a few key sections that will help get you found.

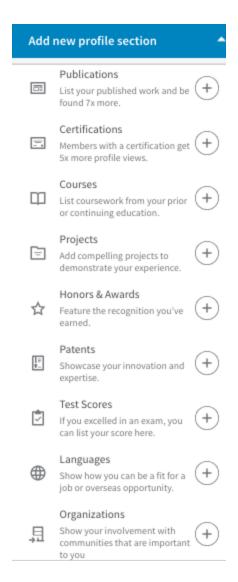
Skills

Highlight any specific skills in this section. Keep these skills tight. You want them to target what you are really good at in your business. So start with the skills you know you have that clients are going to want.

Accomplishments

There is an entire drop-down of accomplishments that you'll want to consider adding to your profile too.

Here's what the box looks like (you'll find it on the right side of the page next to the top of your profile):



The main ones to note here are publications, certifications, and projects. If you have industry-specific honors and awards as well as coursework, be sure to add those too.

Any additional information you can add in these sections can help add credibility to

your profile and abilities.

Once you've got those set, congrats! You've got your profile set up, huzzah!

LinkedIn Tips to Get You Started

But that's not the end. Nope, sorry. There are a couple of things you can do to

Nope, sorry. There are a couple of things you can do to really make your profile shine and continue to build your personal brand. I want to cover those in this section.

Network

The best way to grow your presence on LinkedIn is to build your network. This helps to expand people you're connected with. It helps to build credibility, lets more people see your stuff, and exposes you to more potential clients.

So get networking right away.

Post Your Content

LinkedIn has its own blog network, called LinkedIn Pulse, which is great for you because you can re-post your own content on the site. Again this helps to build your expertise.

There are a couple of ways you can build a following with the blog.

First, post new content. Second, share your previously written content. Here's a pro-tip with this, don't share the entire post, share the first 300-500 words and then add a read the rest here with a link to your site.

Personalize Your Link

Did you know you can make your link your name instead of a bunch of random letters and numbers? This makes your profile really easy to share with others and just gives it a bit more of a professional look.

Follow the steps here to get started.

Stay Up To Date

Your LinkedIn profile isn't something you want to just set and forget. You need to be updating it all the time. That includes adding any new clients you've worked with, new certifications, new portfolio content, etc.

Set aside a schedule on a quarterly basis to go back through your profile and update accordingly.

Join Groups

Groups here are basically the same as you'd find on Facebook. Find and join groups in the areas that you want to be known for and participate. These groups are a great way to connect with others to expand your network.

If you want to be fancy, you can also make your own group and really highlight your own expertise.

Embrace the Potential

Remember, as you get more advanced on LinkedIn you'll find you can use it for a lot more than simply networking.

You can create content to highlight your expertise with LinkedIn publishing. You can also really level up and create LinkedIn ads that will help promote your business to potential B2B clients using the platform.

Go Forth and Create

This post should help you get started with the basics of getting your LinkedIn profile up and running. Now, it's up to you. Set aside time to develop a plan, know the keywords and customers you want to target and build your profile.

Once that's set with a little time and effort you should be able to start building all sorts of new leads and connections that can help you grow your business.

How to Build an Online Portfolio That Actually Gets You Work

If you're one of the approximately 53 million people considered a freelancer, you probably already understand just how competitive the marketplace is right now.

You're competing against people all over the globe, with up-and-coming newcomers hitting the marketplace each year.

What if you could stand out from the millions of other freelancers?

Would you love to grow your client base this year and bring in more income? As a freelancer, your online portfolio is the face of your company. It's how you are going to present yourself to clients when you're looking for freelance work.

And if you don't have an online portfolio, you should really consider getting one. There are tons of free portfolio websites out there (like Contently) you should check out.

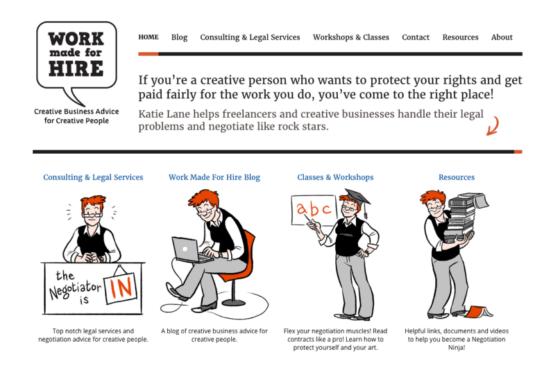
But, you'll likely want to build your own website in order to have a custom URL and access to more advanced features. This website cost calculator is a good place to get started if you're concerned about pricing.

No matter where you are in your portfolio management, there are some key features of successful portfolios that nearly every freelancer can benefit from. Study the features below and adjust your own online portfolio.

These will help you become more competitive and give your online presence a professional edge.

1. Explain What You Offer

The main thing your online portfolio should do is clearly explain the services you offer and any industries you specialize in. If a potential client is looking for someone specializing in designing technology websites, and this is your niche, then you want to state that clearly.



One example of a freelance site that clearly explains what it does is Work Made For Hire. This site offers advice to other freelancers, including legal advice. The site states clearly in the logo that it offers "creative business advice for creative people."

Owner Katie Lane then goes on to explain that she helps creative-type businesses handle legal problems and negotiate. There are legal services, a blog, classes and workshops, and a variety of other resources. You can access all of this very clearly from the landing page.

2. Make Contact Info Easy to Find

If you want potential clients to be able to contact you, then you have to make that contact information easy to find. In addition, you should offer a variety of ways to get in touch with you.

Some people might prefer sending an email, while others will want a telephone

number to call. Don't forget to include social media handles, too, for the younger generation who might wish to send a DM on Twitter or get in touch on another social media platform.

Jun Yang created a simple Wix website, but the result is a portfolio that makes sense for the work Yang does. He clearly lists projects he's worked on, info about him, and then right at the bottom of the landing page are his name, phone number, and email.

He also adds this information to every other page on his site to make it easier to find. On the "about" page, he adds a contact form as well. If you want to get in touch with Yang, you can easily find the information to do so.

3. Offer a Quote Upfront

Some freelancers don't list their prices because they fear competitors will undercut them. However, consumers often want to know the approximate cost before they will consider hiring you. Midnight Whimsy Design lists the prices right upfront with detailed pricing.

Midnight Whimsy Design lists the prices right upfront with detailed pricing.

Another way to get around this dilemma is to offer a free quote on your website.

Another way to get around this dilemma is to offer a free quote on your website. A free quote offers two advantages.

First, you'll be able to gather the lead's information. This means you can get in touch again and not lose the contact you've worked so hard to drive to your website. It also allows you to give an estimate before the business owner hires you to do work. This prevents misunderstandings later about the cost of the job.

4. Limit the Number of Categories

Even if you do a wide range of job types, try to limit the number of categories you list on your homepage. Otherwise, visitors might feel the page is too cluttered and bounce away instead of looking at examples of your work. If you have more than five types, think about how to condense them into larger categories.



Ava Sawicka is a 3D game artist. When you land on her online portfolio homepage, you'll see three basic categories. She has images she's created for Guns of Icarus Online, for Cuddle Pets, and a collection of her personal art work.

If you need additional info, she has uploaded her resume and you can click on the link near the top of the page. The site is fairly simple but it works well to draw the reader in.

5. Get Social

If you want to reach out to new clients, social media is the way to go. It is vital to have a social media presence, at least on the bigger social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter.

You should add the icons for these social media pages to your online portfolio so site visitors can take note and connect with you on those platforms as well. This simply gives you another way to connect with those who visit your site and stay in touch.

Emily Miethner's online portfolio shares her social media locations right at the top right of her landing page. She is involved in LinkedIn, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

EMILY MIETHNER

CEO & Founder, FindSpark & MCG Social, Professor, Speaker, and Millennial Expert

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You certainly don't have to add that many, especially if you're just getting started, but it gives you an idea of the importance of connecting on social media and

integrating those pages onto your website pages.

6. Choose Your Best Work

It should probably go without saying that you should present only your very best work.

However, it is very easy to set up an online portfolio in the early days of building your freelance business and then fail to update the images in the portfolio with your most recent work. No matter what type of freelancing you do, it is certain you've improved over time.

Take a minute to look through what you have on your site and make sure it is still the way you'd like to present yourself to potential clients.

Are there any images you feel do not reflect you in the best light or maybe just are no longer the absolute best you have to offer? Remove them and replace them with something better.

Jenn Clara's photography portfolio is an example of a truly beautiful representation of the kind of work she is capable of doing. If you were planning to hire a wedding photography and you saw the gorgeous bride balanced on a rock in front of a lake landscape, you'd hire her in a heartbeat.

As you scroll down the page, you'll see beautiful images representing various categories. You can click on "Portfolio" in any of these categories to make your way to more images of the same type.

The images are big, bold and beautiful. They truly capture the ability of the photographer and show it off.

Build A Better Portfolio Today

One of the best things you can do for your online portfolio is to update it frequently with new work and new skills you've learned.

Revisit your portfolio at least twice a year and make updates. If possible, update every time you finish a big job where you're pleased with the work you've done. By updating your work frequently, potential clients will always see the best you have

to offer.

Kayla Matthews is a productivity blogger based out of Pittsburgh, PA. You can read her latest posts by following her on Twitter @KaylaEMatthews.

How to Achieve Long Term Success as a Lifestyle Entrepreneur

I'm coming up on my EIGHT year anniversary of starting this blog.

Do you know how old that makes me feel?

Facebook memories of my time living in Thailand have been popping up on my newsfeed saying, "this was almost a decade ago??"

Mind blown.

It truly does not feel like that long ago.

Yet, I think back to all of the wonderful stories and memories I've created since then, and the amazing success stories that have come out of Location Rebel Academy, and well, I guess yeah it's been a long time.

I woke up this morning in a state of reflection, and more than anything one of gratitude (I promise, that's about as woo woo, as I'll get).

But I wasn't just grateful of the life I have, but everything (and everyone) that has helped me get here as well.

Because let's face it, while the steps to build a legitimate lifestyle business aren't overly difficult, putting them all together, sticking with it through the down periods, and having faith in yourself can be a really difficult thing.

So after eight years, how do / still have the freedom to live this lifestyle, where so many others haven't had as much success or have moved on to other interests?

I hope to answer that with this post.

There are a few counterintuitive things I've learned that I think will be beneficial to those both starting out, as well as those who have had some success who simply need a reminder for how to keep this lifestyle going.

So let's jump into it, here are the 10, ahem, 11, things I think everyone should do in order to sustain longevity as a lifestyle entrepreneur.

1) Take your ego out of it

Recently I was invited to attend a really special conference. It's for a very limited number of people, and the people I knew who went last year are some of my most successful friends, and they all raved about it.

So when I got the invite, and was referred by *another* successful friend, I felt like I had no choice but to go.

It cost \$5,000.

I'm not the best in investing in myself and spending big sums on coaching, conferences etc.

And while I certainly have the money, and I do believe I would have gotten value out of it, I came to the realization that my *primary* reason for wanting to go was to satisfy my ego.

I wanted to be included in that group of successful people so much that I was willing to pay just to make myself feel good (ok, not just for that reason, but it was a driving factor).

By realizing this, I was able to take a step back, and invest that money in something that I think will be more directly beneficial to what I need.

Part of the secret of longevity is "you do you." Don't focus on other people and what they're doing. Focus on what will grow your business, what makes you happy, and don't let your ego run the show.

2) Write (or Create) daily

This might be the most important piece of advice on this list.

Just about everything I do in my business is some form of content creation. The more I write, the more content gets put out, the greater the chance to reach someone and have an impact on their life.

The vast majority of all we do online is written, so sharpening that skill, and also simply using it as an outlet for your thoughts is incredibly valuable.

Even if you aren't looking to be a freelance writer, you will need to be able to write to sell your products and services.

If you aren't looking to become a writer, work on creating something every day/week. If you create videos make them, if you love social media meme away, if you're designing websites come up with something new, get in the habit of creating all the time.

This post will help you cultivate a daily writing habit.

3) Double down on what's working

These next three all go hand in hand, and contradict each other a bit, but keep reading..

In 2012 I made the decision to stop focusing on additional products, and just focus on the one thing that was working best, Location Rebel Academy.

It was the best decision I've ever made in my business.

It allowed me to stay focused on the thing I knew I could teach best, give attention to the one thing that had the most income potential, and it freed up headspace to be able to make time for more of the things I enjoy doing in life (like travel).

When I did this I immediately grew our membership with in LRA and our success stories saw a boost as well.

So rather than trying to monetize in 10 different ways, focus on the one that is working best.

4) Remember, what got you here, won't get you there.

I know that's a book title (one I haven't actually read yet), but it's an important message.

I doubled down in 2012, and it was the best decision I could have made.

In 2016, I knew in order to continue to grow the site, I had to remember what got me here, won't get me there.

Specifically the Location 180 and Seanogle.com brand, had become confusing for people with the strength that Location Rebel had gained.

So we merged them into one.

On top of that, our audience had grown to the point where I couldn't ignore the fact that we had quite a few people who Location Rebel Academy, *wasn't* a perfect fit for – so we rolled out a handful of other products to help serve them better.

We're still focused primarily on the Academy, but for others that need help with writing emails, overcoming fear, or just want the basics of this whole lifestyle – we now have stuff for them.

It was a tough decision to implement those changes, but 6 months later, it's already clear it was the right choice.

5) Start new things. Slowly.

Ok, so double down on what works, when it makes sense.

Then remember, that once you do that, things will still need to evolve.

One last bit of advice in that vein is to start new things *slowly*.

Once you have one business or brand chugging along, you might be compelled to start something else.

That's great – but do so slowly.

I started Breaking Eighty in early 2013. I wrote once or twice a month and took a couple golf trips a year to take photos and generate content for the site.

I didn't worry about monetizing it at all for the first year or two.

I built the brand slowly.

That allowed me to not lose focus on Location Rebel, which is most important, but it also allowed me to build my reputation and build trust with that audience.

You don't necessarily need to wait as long as I did to try to monetize (years), but remember, for most people niche sites, brands, audiences, whatever you want to call them, are not built over night. So don't *try* and build it over night.

6) Get a #2 as soon as possible

I often tell people there is nothing solo about being a solopreneur.

You need a community of people you can lean on for help and who can support you during both the highs and the lows.

That's what Location Rebel Academy provides.

But the same is true for people once they have a successful business.



I've been working with Liz Froment since 2012.

She is my right hand girl, knows the community even better than I do, and is what allows me to stay sane and continue doing this.

LR member Mike, Liz, myself, and my adorable wife Tate.

When you're working

on your own, frankly, it can get lonely. Yes, the freedom is great, but often my days are spent in sweats moving my laptop from one room in the house to another.

Liz helps me vent, helps work on aspects of the business I don't have the time for, and has become a great friend.

Here's more about her.

7) Be as accessible as possible

Part of what sets what I do apart from others is that I spend half my working time answering emails from people in our community.

I do my very best to be as accessible as humanly posssible. Not only does that allow me to build more real relationships with people in our community, but it also builds trust, and inevitably the business grows because of it.

These days since so many are coming in, I'm not able to respond to some emails as quickly as I would like – but I still do my best to respond to every single one.

I think the *best* thing you can do to grow your business from 0 to \$100k a year, is encourage interaction every single step of the way. Ask your readers to respond with answers to questions, give them thoughtful feedback, hop on Skype if asked etc.

It takes time, and you can't be quite that open with your time forever, but for businesses doing under \$250k a year, I think it's one of the most overlooked ways to grow.

8) Play deliberately

I truly believe this is one of the biggest secrets to my success.

It can be so easy to sit down and spend 10 hours at a computer, while essentially just pretending to work.

Maybe you get 3-4 hours of *real* work done in that time.

But then for those extra six you leave feeling *exhausted* and don't have anything to show for it.

Rather than wasting those times in front of my computer, I try and recognize when I'm no longer being productive, and I go *deliberately* do something fun.

Other times it might just be going for a walk, or even playing a video game.

But as long as whatever fun activity I'm doing is *deliberate* it makes going back to

work that much easier later on.

Whenever possible I still try and wake up at 6am, and stop working at noon.

9) Not everything has to be passive

I get it, passive income is the holy grail – and once you get a little bit of it, it can be easy to become complacent.

Your niche sites are bringing in a few grand a month, you're traveling the world and loving your life.

But I still remember being in the *middle of nowhere* in Yangshuo, China when I got an email on my dial up connection from a business partner telling us all of the traffic for our HDR photography site had disappeared.

Overnight \$3k/month in passive income went down to \$300.

You never know when that might happen.

By diversifying your passive income with freelance jobs or more active income, you're able to protect yourself in the event something bad happens.

It may not be as sexy as being fully passive, but when things go sideways? You'll be glad you've got a client or two to fall back on.

10) Niche down. Then niche down even more.

The internet is a big place. There are literally tens of thousands of people trying to do exactly what you're trying to do – no matter what it is.

So the more you niche down, the more successful you're going to be. Even if you feel like you're alienating a lot of people, what you're really doing is making it even more of a no brainer for your target market to get on board.

With my new golf project, I started something called The Eighty Club.

It's a golf society for members of private clubs across the United States.

Take my entire audience at Breaking Eighty.

Probably 15% of them are members of private clubs.

Then only a portion of those people are interested in potentially hosting strangers on their course.

Fewer still travel on a regular basis.

And then even fewer of *them* like to communicate in online forums.

So in the end, I've created a community that is probably only a good fit for 1-2% of my audience.

But for that 1-2%? It's a *perfect fit,* and one that doesn't take much in the way of selling.

How can you take a market and niche down, and then niche down *again*, to make it a total no brainer for that target market?

11) BONUS: Never take what you have for granted

I'll be the first person to admit it, this lifestyle is a *privilege* – not a right. Not many people have the ability to do whatever they want, whenever they want.

And as soon as you start to take that for granted, it can all start to slip away.

Take a few minutes every day to be grateful for what you have – that goes for all things in life and regardless of what phase your business is in.

Sure I might "play" more than the average person, but I don't do that to the detriment of the work that got me here in the first place.

Check out this infographic of all the tips in one easy to digest form from Julie at Nest Egg Chick:



ACHEIVE

Long-term success

as a Lifestyle Entreprenuer

01

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02

Write daily

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Double down on what's working

Rather than trying to monetize in 10 different ways, focus on the one that is working best.

04

Remember...

What got you here, won't get you there.

05

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10



Niche down....

Then niche down even more. The more you niche down, the more successful you're going to be.



Originally posted at: locationrebel.com Created By: Julie Morgenlender, Financial Freedom Coach, juliemorgenlender.com



Bonus: How To Finally Take Action: The 30 Day Challenge

The hardest thing a freelancer can do is take action.

I'm talking real action. Not doing research, not reading your emails or checking Facebook.

With rare exceptions, none of that adds up to anything.

In fact, it's a great way to procrastinate while convincing yourself that you are taking action.

Nope, I mean behind in your chair and doing things that result in you making money. Creating stuff (content, websites, podcasts, whatever), getting referrals, sending pitches, all that good stuff.

That's the stuff people don't like to do because it's hard.

It's a lot more fun to watch YouTube and read 50 blog posts hoping something might trickle through via osmosis.

So in this post, believe me, I understand the irony of yelling at you for reading too many blog posts and then telling you to keep reading this blog post, you're going to learn how to finally start taking action.

Enter: the 30 day challenge.

But first, let's dive into something called compounding.

The Compound Effect

There's a book by Darren Hardy, the publisher of Success Magazine, called *The*

Compound Effect.

In it, Hardy tries to move you away from the conventional wisdom that you need to make sudden big changes to improve your life. Instead, he advocates for taking tiny steps every day that compound on each other over time.

He explains the theory well here in this q and a with American Express Open Forum:

Q: What's the "Compound Effect"?

A: It is based on the principle that you can reap huge rewards from a series of small, smart choices. In other words, your present reality is the outcome of the little, seemingly innocuous decisions that have added up to your current bank balance, waistline, business success or relationship status. Success or failure is earned through the consistent habit forming practice of making smart choices over time, culminating into what Einstein called the 8th wonder of the world: compound results, or The Compound Effect.

Do you get the concept?

Basically, the goal is to take small actions daily on things that will actually push you forward and help you achieve success. It's all about playing the long game, something that is all too often forgotten today.

When I read Hardy's book, this was a passage that stuck out to me:

I want you to know in your bones that your only path to success is through a continuum of mundane, unsexy, unectiting, and sometimes difficult daily disclines compounding over time.

Oh man, how terrible, and how oh so true.

In my own experience of years of freelancing, this is true. The decidedly unsexy stuff in the trenches is where the magic actually does happen.

I struggled with this for years. Who wants to do mundane unexciting stuff where

there's always some fun new distraction popping up right around the corner!

People who don't want to freelance very long is probably the answer. Beyond the obvious (lack of money) there is the emotional toll here too.

Let's face it, freelancing is hard. There are a lot of ups and downs. The downs can feel low and can sometimes take over, especially when you're overwhelmed or not hitting those big picture goals you've set for yourself.

When that happens, it can be a hit to your confidence. It's super easy to get discouraged, think it's never going to work, and give up.

Now, before you do that. Hold up a second. This is where compounding can make a huge difference.

Making Choices or Doing Nothing

A key component of compounding is actively making the choice to make smart decisions.

On a day to day basis for virtually everything you do there are three choices. Here's an example:

- 1. I decided I'd like to see my writing in a magazine, so every day, I send one pitch.
- 2. I decided I'd like to see my writing in a magazine, so I read a million how to send a pitch to magazine articles and call it a day, I swear I'll send a pitch tomorrow (probably).
- 3. I'm watching Netflix and eating Cheetos because no one can tell me what to do!

It seems like this doesn't really matter over the course of one day, right? That's kind of the point, the actions you want to get into the habit of taking are so small they might not seem like they matter for the first day or week or even months.

You're playing the long game, remember. You want to focus on continuously improving a tiny bit every single day.

The choices on day one can have an impact on the outcomes down the road. Let's use my examples from above.

My daily pitching a month or a year or two years from now leads to me being in 15 magazines. I've got a bunch of cool new bylines. My writing has improved. I can send a killer pitch that has a high acceptance rate. And I've gotten 3 new high paying clients from all the exposure. Huzzah!

Me doing the same thing I'd done before, procrastinating and sporadically sending out pitches has left me with 1 article in a magazine, no new clients, and a pile of frustration. I'm basically in the same place I started.

Watching Netflix and eating Cheetos will only take you so far. Although I have an encyclopedic knowledge of Netflix's offerings, I ran out of money, I'm back in an office job and now I've gained 10 pounds from those @&#*% Cheetos!

Not good.

As you can see from our little thought experiment, the tiny choices I made on day 1 seemed like nothing. But on day 300 the outcomes were dramatically different.

In one I was living the dream (yay) and in the other, I was back in the office looking up gym memberships that I'd probably buy and never use (boo).

Choices and action. What it all adds up to is consistency, getting a little bit better every single day.

Why Being Consistent Matters

One of the things I tell people inside Location Rebel Academy over and over again is to be consistent. This is hard because as you saw in the chart, being consistent takes time and effort.

Being consistent ruins that notion that everyone is an overnight success who just tossed up a blog or took their first picture on Instagram and then they were internet famous.

It's also hard because too many people spend their time looking at what's down the road, the big picture, and not what's in front of them. They get disappointed after a month because they don't have 500 subscribers and 5 new clients.

What I tell them is they are looking at step 100 when they are on step 2. And, beyond some luck, the only way you're going to hit step 100 is by being consistent with your daily and weekly actions, starting right now.

Easier said than done, right?

But, here's the thing, you've got to do it. You want to see success, it's not going to come overnight, and you're not going to stumble on a bag of magic beans. You've got to put in a little bit of sweat equity over and over (and over) again.

Don't take my word for it.

There are people all over the internet who have shared their stories of going from zero to [insert cool thing here] because they took action consistently every day or every week for long periods of time.

Tom Kuegler shares how he went from 0 to 14,000 (now over 18k) followers on Medium. How? He wrote 500 posts, 5 day, for over a year.

Anthony Moore had a similar story. In this post, he talks about how the first 4.5 years of his 5 year blogging journey had mostly downs, he had 79 subscribers and barely any traffic on his site.

What changed? He got consistent:

4 months ago, I finally decided to become consistent. I started publishing every single day, building trust with my readers and honing my craft. It's no coincidence that in the last 4 months, I've gotten more traffic to my articles than the previous 4.5 years combined. I've gained nearly 1,000 more subscribers. My articles are read by thousands of people every day. I've made more money from my blog this week than I've made in the past 4 years combined.

Andrew Chen is a Silicon Valley VC for one of the biggest names in the business. He's been blogging for 10 years and not long ago shared his biggest lessons. One of them was all about consistency:

Focus on writing frequency over anything else. Schedule it. Don't worry about building an immediate audience. Focus on the intrinsic.

If there's one thing, beyond taking consistent action, that unites these guys is they are focused on what's ahead of them right now and the small affirmative positive choices they can make to keep moving forward.

Start Your Own 30 Day Challenge

Alright, remember way back at the top of this post I was telling you how the 30 day challenge is the perfect way to learn how to take action and be consistent?

Glad you stuck with me because here's where we get to how to do it.

I like the concept of the 30 day challenge because it's like a little bit of a game. I'm competitive by nature, and whenever I'm able to gamify anything I always do better.

We run these every few months inside LRA forums and they are always pretty popular.

So here's how to start.

1. Pick something small but impactful

We're going for bang for our buck here, remember. The ultimate goal is that these tiny 30 day challenges form into long term habits so don't go nuts.

This can be really incredibly simple.

Want to build a writing habit so you can finish that book you've been dreaming about? Then write 200 words a day, every single day, start creating a daily writing practice in your mind.

I love these sorts of challenges. I've done the daily writing. I did one where I wrote 3 times a week on LinkedIn (which did land me a client and helped build a

portfolio). That's one I'll be getting back into.

You can send one pitch a day. Learn one line of code a day. Do one pushup a day. Floss one tooth a day.

You're probably thinking, wow all this stuff is so small, that would be easy to bang out.

2. Tell People

Don't ignore this part. Tell at least one person what you are doing. It helps with accountability. If you don't have anyone to tell, announce it on social media.

I had a goal to run a 5k. I told myself about this goal about 28 times and never once did anything about it. One day, in a burst of insanity inspiration, I signed up for a local 5k and told myself I was running that afternoon when I got home from work.

The first thing I did when I got home was tweet that I was doing it. Then it was out in the ether.

No one commented or liked or cared but that action helped make it click for me. I finished that 5k (I walked it with my sister), and then a few years later ran one and did the same thing, announcing it online.

3. Schedule a time

You can do stuff whenever it floats into your head or scheduling a time.

I prefer to schedule a time because it helps me take this thing seriously and it forces me to get this on my to-do list. Just the simple act of taking the steps to take action (if that makes any sense) helped get it in my head that these were things that I had to do, not think about doing.

It also helps to schedule this time when it works best for you. Don't make things harder than they need to be. If you're a morning person, bang out those 200 words right after you wake up. If you hit your stride at 2pm, do it then.

Remove the barriers that are going to stop you from moving forward.

4. Do it

Yea, this one should be obvious at this point but I figure it can't hurt to make it

really clear.

You've got your challenge set, you told people, you scheduled a time. There's only one thing left to do: the work.

5. Rinse and repeat

After 30 days take a minute and pat yourself on the back. You did it!

Most people won't last the 30 days, they give up. But, you know about consistency and compounding, right? That means you're ready to do it again.

Here's where the unsexy part comes in. Yup, you did one rep, it's time for more. Add a new small task to the mix (if you want) but keep doing that main goal. I promise it will add up.

What's Your Challenge?

So are you ready to tackle your own 30 day challenge?

Start Today

The absolute best thing you can do to start this process is to do just that: start.

I started a lifestyle business to give myself the freedom, flexibility, and money to be able to pursue the lifestyle I had always dreamed about.

If you're looking to make a change, want more freedom, flexibility, and ultimately control over your life, let's take this a step further.

I created a course just for you: Location Rebel Academy.

Click below to check it out.

If you have any questions about it just shoot me an email at team@locationrebel.com

After all, there are only seven days in a week, and someday isn't one of them

Check out Location Rebel Academy Here.