



Hello, I'm **Maxine Harrison**

Freelance Writer & SEO
Strategist

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MY JOB DESCRIPTION

I freelance as both a journalist and blogger, writing articles on various topics including entertainment, culture, and current affairs. With the content I write, I also write it in line with Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) to help it rank on search engines like Google. Publications I've written for include The Independent, Bustle, The Voice Newspaper and more.

To reach the position that I am in now, as a freelance writer, I first took advantage of the mentor journalist I had at school through an organisation called Urban Synergy, which is still active today. As well as providing a mentor, Urban Synergy offered regular workshops and opportunities to connect young people with career strategies. Through my mentor, I landed work experience at The Voice newspaper. I later went on to study English Language and Literature at college and then English Language and Linguistics at university, where I graduated with a 2:1. Following my graduation I did a one-year internship in communications, and then a few months after this finished, I landed my first freelance client. Though things started off slow as a freelancer, it was enough to keep me going to become the full-time freelancer that I am today.

Throughout all this time, I never stopped writing. At university, I wrote for the student newspaper and also had a blog that I started in my school days.

A few tips from me

1. Find a mentor who is in the same career that you want to get in. In secondary school, I had a mentor who was a journalist and she played a great part in where I am today. She provided me with knowledge and some connections to develop my experience as a writer and journalist.
2. Practice your writing wherever you can. You can set up a blog pretty easily these days and that's a great way to regularly practice your writing and maybe even develop followers.
3. Reach out to places you want to work for work experience. The earlier you get the ball rolling on this, the more experience you will have as you get older. Because I was so eager to get work experience from when I was a student, I look back at my CV now and I'm thankful to my younger self for being so driven from such a young age. If not for this and God's grace, it may have taken me a little longer to get to the position of where I am now.