*Streamlining Writing Work with Family (So Both Come Out Ahead!)*

Rhonda Franz | Megaphone 2018

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Strategies for Streamlining Writing Work & Family

* USE SPECIFIC CONTENT**:** Look for assignments/topics that might keep you accountable for something you/your family need to do or would like to do.
  + General: Vacation - Travel - Safety - Chores – Homeschooling -Newborn/Preteen/Teenage years
  + Tips that work for your kind of family dynamic: military spouse – living w/extended family – raising children with special needs – caring for aging parents/grandparents – Non-traditional work schedules – Family Roles
  + Humor

EXAMPLES:

* First Security home/mortgage site:[*Fire Safety for a Two-Story House*](https://www.fsbmortgageloan.com/2016/06/18/fire-safety-for-a-two-story-house)
* Chicken Soup for the Soul/Peekaboo magazine*: Yoga Night*
* TODAY Show parent site:[*Oh Give me a Home Where My Children Can Roam*](https://www.today.com/moms/country-mom-oh-give-me-home-where-my-children-can-1C7398811)
* OnlyinArk.com/First Security Bank community site*:* [*Slow Food: Top O’ The Mount Farm*](http://onlyinark.com/arkansas-women-bloggers/slow-food-top-o-the-mount-farm/).
* Calgary’s Child Magazine: Frosty Fun! [*23 Cool Winter Birthday party Ideas*](https://www.calgaryschild.com/family-fun/parties/1770-frosty-fun-23-cool-winter-birthday-party-ideas)

Other examples:

* [*Journaling with Children: Starting Points, Strategies, and Story Prompts*](https://www.rhealana.com/blog/journaling-children-starting-points-strategies-and-story-prompts?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+rhealana+%28Rhea+Lana%27s+Blog%29){Rhea Lana}
* [*43 Chores Young Children Can Do*](http://parentingsquad.com/45-chores-young-children-can-do){Parenting Squad}
* [*Talking to Your Young Adult about Alcohol and Drug Safety*](http://www.orlandofamilymagazine.com/family-resources/college-crash-course-talking-to-your-young-adult-about-alcohol-and-drug-safety/) *{*Orlando Family Magazine}
* [*Searching for Silly*](http://www.incourage.me/2016/06/searching-for-silly-by-rhonda-franz.html){incourage.me}
* THINK ABOUT GENERAL WORK HABITS
  + As appropriate in your writing work, involve your children. Example: 11-year old seeing me revise my work.
  + “Office assistant” jobs: (Basic level when they’re younger.) Tasks can change as children get older.
    - * Retrieving papers from printer – “Working” alongside a parent at a little table with coloring books/table activities – Seeing a parent work from a young age and being a part of that/understanding that part of the family dynamic
* THROUGHOUT YOUR NORMAL DAY, JOT DOWN IDEAS THAT WOULD WORK FOR BOTH YOUR LIFE + WORK  
  + Humor
  + Home/garden: organization, planting, decorating.
  + Don’t forget your credentials. Professional background? Degrees? I use my M.A. in special education and specialty/certification in early childhood for articles about education and everyday learning opportunities.
  + Mentors: great sources for articles!
* FIGURE OUT HOW YOUR WRITING WORK HELPS YOU
  + Income
  + Some of my writing helps me attack a problem, complete a project. It also reminds me to find joy, humor, and not take everything quite so seriously.
  + Transferring the freelance skills to my homemaking responsibilities: If I can do this for freelance work, I can do it in my household: I can work to finish something on deadline, and then attack the home stuff that needs doing with renewed energy/fresh approach.

QUESTIONS I ASK MYSELF BEFORE PITCHING OR TAKING ON AN ASSIGNMENT:

* Does this feel like too much work?
* Is it too much in a certain week?
* What is my spouse’s schedule during this time?
* My children’s schedule?
* What other deadlines do I have?
* Is it too much in a certain week?
* If required, can I commit to driving/doing interview/taking photos?
* Is it appropriate to bring my kids? Is this going to cause pain and heartache? (Example: 3-D pen)