



Writer Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in NextStepU!

Queries

Editor Michelle Inclema accepts freelance queries by e-mail at editor@NextStepU.com. Freelance writers are required to sign a work-for-hire agreement and must submit an invoice to be paid if applicable. Next Step pays within 30 days of invoice receipt. Next Step buys all rights.

Mission

NextStepU helps students prepare for life after high school.

Products

NextStepU produces several objective guides to help students prepare for life after high school. Products needing freelance contributions are detailed below.

NextStepU Magazine is a five-times-a-school-year objective publication for high school students preparing for college. *NextStepU Magazine* is the company's core product and publishes 17 regional editions distributed in all 50 states.

Articles cover college, careers, life skills or financial aid. Typical article length is 600 to 1,000 words. Pay is negotiated with writers on a per-article basis, and NextStepU buys all rights to articles.

- *College* articles cover any part of the college-planning process. The more detailed the topic, the better. Our readers get general college-planning overviews elsewhere.
- *Career* articles should address several careers available to those who study one field. For example, an article on journalism careers could highlight reporter, anchor, photojournalist, editor and freelance writer instead of profiling just one person.
- *Life skills* articles cover topics such as résumé writing, public speaking and fiscal management and should appeal to both male and female students.

Link Newsletter is a five-times-a-year, eight-page newsletter for high school counselors. Articles run 600 to 1,100 words. Topics should be focused on helping school counselors do their jobs better. Past articles have included counseling students with AD/HD, explaining sports scholarships, and tips on motivating teens.

NextStepU Transfer Guide is an annual edition for students at two-year schools looking to transfer to four-year schools. The Transfer Guide covers college, careers, life and financial aid and is distributed through the transfer offices at community colleges in several states.

Notes

- The best queries are specific, concise and entertaining.
- Refer to readers directly as “you.”
- Interviews with expert sources, college faculty, workers in the field or students are required in articles. Websites don’t count as sources.
- Each article should contain *at least* two sources.
- Sources must be geographically and racially diverse whenever possible.
- NextStepU uses AP style.
- Articles should be written in a conversational tone.
- Relevant sidebars are appreciated.
- Photographs of sources should be submitted whenever possible.
- Please include your name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number on all queries and article submissions.