

# If indie writers and filmmakers and show them

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If you're reading this then you probably want to become an indie writer or filmmaker. If you have already started the writing process, you would agree that it is not an easy task. It requires a huge amount of inspiration, discipline, consistency and commitment to mention a few.

However, the benefits that come with being an independent writer or filmmaker are immense as it will put you right in the career you are passionate about, get you massive media attention and give you an avenue to impact the lives of a lot of people with your words. With the benefits associated with being an indie writer, there is no surprise in the large amount of people who want to venture into the field. The roadblock however, is the fact that many talented writers and filmmakers have no good idea of where to start and how to go about the entire process.

Therefore, this post will serve as a complete guide to aspiring indie writers and filmmakers and show them the ropes on how to succeed in the field.

First, the Truth Due to the large number of authors both successful and unsuccessful in this field, it is easy for rookie writers to feel discouraged or unnecessarily affected by the levels of success other writers seem to have attained. However, new writers and filmmakers need to note that there will always be someone doing worse and another doing better than you are.

Therefore, comparative analysis is not a way to judge success in writing as it can be grossly misleading. This is because the apparent success or failure of a writer or filmmaker is never constant.

Instead, it is an ever-dynamic entity that tends to be affected by so many different factors. Hence, in order to be a successful writer, all you need do is

focus on yourself, your craft and audience. Also, in the independent world of writing and filmmaking, success is highly relative and largely depends on the unique definition of success a writer has. Is your writing an outlet for your endless stream of creativity? Is it just a hobby you can't seem to get enough of? Or is it something you do professionally with the hope of generating a steady stream of income. Many authors have different reasons for writing, therefore there is no standard scale to measure and differentiate a successful writer from an unsuccessful one as every author's definition of success is different and depends on a vast array of factors; both personal and professional.

### 5 Steps to Becoming an Indie Writer/Filmmaker

Once you have understood the factors described above, the following steps should guide you to create sustainable and good income as an indie writer or filmmaker.

- What's your story? Many aspiring writers often think they need to have a high quality book as their first release.

It would be shocking to realise that high quality books do not meet certain expectations most times and end up languishing. Hence, as a rookie writer, in order to give yourself a great shot at success, you should create and focus on a brilliant story that cuts across popular genres while still managing to bring something fresh and unique to the table. Settings and characters are crucial parts of every book but it is the uncertainty, danger, conflict that keeps readers glued to the pages while asking for more.

A relatable, consistent and thrilling story will definitely keep you on the shelves for a long time.

- You cannot do it alone Okay, you have a brilliant story and a functioning personal computer so you think you have everything

you need to start out as an independent writer or filmmaker. Although admirable, the high levels of enthusiasm rookie writers have tend to make them feel they can do everything on their own. This usually leads to a badly produced book or script with bad reviews. Succeeding in this field goes beyond having a great story; it also involves hiring professionals to handle other aspects of the process while you focus on writing. Most “successful” writers have editors, proof-readers, cover artists, formatters and even re-writers at their beck and call who work tirelessly to ensure their books look great. As a new writer, you will definitely have to experiment with a few of these professionals before you find the ones who perfectly understand your vision and are talented enough to help you bring it to life.

- Study and assess the successful books/scripts in your chosen genre. In this field, we definitely learn from the best. Regardless of what your chosen niche or genre might be; you will definitely have a lot of successful, veteran writers and filmmakers that you can learn a thing or two from. When we say “study and assess” we don’t mean taking a mere glance at an old book; we mean breaking down and analysing the different elements of the book that makes it so great. From the cover art to the style of writing, and figuring out the kinds of images or styles readers tend to be more drawn to. Once you effectively analyse these aspects, you can then incorporate the necessary information into your own book and you will definitely see great results.

- If your story sticks, a series is inevitable. Many new writers are actual hubs of fresh, exciting ideas and most of them immediately dive into writing a series. Although, this is not an entirely bad idea, writers and filmmakers also

have to ensure their story sticks to an extent where readers ask for continuity as you wouldn't want to create a series with no fans, would you? If your first story does exceedingly well to the level where your fans start asking what happens next, then you will need to develop a series to meet the high demand. However, the trick is starting with one, seeing how well it does and deciding on the next step to take. · Keep writing As a writer or filmmaker, there is really no actual retirement age.

Once your story or brand sticks and your readers begin to create different fan communities, then you have a duty to give them more. Many expert writers find it somewhat hard to continue after a certain period of time and this is acceptable to a certain extent as they have successfully infringed their brand and stories in the hearts of their fans, hence, they can afford to take their time. But, as a rookie writer, it is advised that you write as much as you can for as long as you can. Whatever you do, just keep writing. Becoming an independent writer or filmmaker is not always as glamorous as it seems. It requires a high level of commitment, late nights, the occasional writer's blocks and sometimes, isolation.

However, once you understand the demands and the various tricks of the trade, you will definitely do a great job as an independent writer or filmmaker and I hope to read your work very soon!