Absolutely Abby Book Writing Project
A Guide to Proposing a "Per Word" Rate

Updated 05/19/17

Introduction

We've moved towards a "per word" rate for this project rather than an hourly rate.

We've done this for a few reasons:

* Cost Containment -- the client has paid us a specific amount and what we promise to deliver is a specific size/format and page count

* We want the writer to be able to follow the pace that they, as a professional, feel suits the client and the project

How This Works

There are two models for how this project may work, yet the reality is that it will likely be a blend of both models. While you are calculating your desired "per word" rate, please consider that you won't necessarily know up front which model will be used.

A: The "No Writing" Book Writing Model

Some clients will essentially want to dictate or speak their entire book. They will be asked questions by you, the writer, the calls will be recorded, and machine transcribed. You would then work independently to write their book. Two or more of these calls may be necessary. The number of calls will vary by the focus of the questions asked by you and the client's ability to articulate what they want to say.

B: The Book Writing Buddy Model

Some of our clients have brought some of their writing to the project. While others have the intention to actually do some of the writing themselves and then will need to have their writing cleaned up by you. We can appreciate their desire to do this as it will ultimately be their name on the book and they need to feel that they've written it.

In this model, a client may write one or two chapters, send it to you to be "cleaned up" and then allow you to expand on what they've written as needed.

Which is Better?

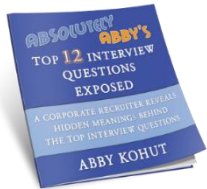It is our intent to hire dynamic writers that will be comfortable with either model or a blend of something in-between.

One of our writers commented that both models may actually end up being the same amount of effort. The first model may require less writing on the part of the writer, yet more thought must be put forth to guide the client through speaking their ideas and more time dedicated to these calls. While the second model requires less interaction with the client, the effort put forth to cleanup the client's work may be greater.

Approximate Word Counts

To aid in calculating the scope of this project, consider the word counts of

Abby's Top 12 Interview Questions Exposed book

Size: 5.5" x 5.5" square (about the size of a compact disc CD)

Introduction (2 pages; 495 words) = 250/words page

Body (24 pages; 3,317 words)

= 3,812 words

This is probably the low end as this book uses a single page for each chapter to ask the job search question.

A book with a two page introduction and twelve chapters each with a half page of text under the chapter header may reach about 5,300 words.

The title page, copyright page, and the back cover/bio are not included in the writing word counts as these will be written by another person. However, they will be included in the calculation of the editing.

Per Project Rate

Optionally, you may also provide a "per project" rate if that's something you'd prefer. I'd like this in addition to a desired "per word" rate.

No Formatting Required Beyond Basic Formatting

The finished product will be laid out in Adobe InDesign by another resource. Therefore, it is not necessary for you to use any formatting beyond the basic bold, underline, etc. Any formatting you choose to include will be used as a suggestion for the layout.