

Steemprentice

Frequently Asked Questions and Tips

* Go ahead and make your first post. Don't wait and don't overthink it. Get used to clicking the buttons. Make the content something short and easy that didn't take you a lot of time.

* **Adding an image:**

* Open an image on the web by itself by right clicking and "open image in its own tab" (so all you see is the picture, no borders or anything else) and copy the URL address. Then just paste it into the Steemit post editor. Scroll down a bit on your screen into the Preview area and should see your picture. {If you don't see it, check that the image was opened in a new tab. A webpage link (instead of an image link) will show a hyperlink instead.

* **How do I find other people?**

* [Steemit.chat](#) is the first place to check out. This place starts you off in a couple of chat channels (general and post-promotion-moderated.)

* General you can talk and get to meet some other users. This channel does NOT allow for steemit links because it makes the chat hard to read. [NOTE: **DO NOT @ALL!** this pings everybody and makes bad things happen, just don't do it]

* Post Promotion Moderated - This was the first (and probably still main) post promotion channel

* [Steemspeak.com](#)

* This website will let you listen to the live stream of the steemit teamspeak channel. To join the conversation follow the instructions to download Teamspeak 3 and use the channel information provided. Thanks to [@fyrstikken](#) for hosting this.

* Visit [steemstats.com](#) to see your latest upvotes (you will need to add your account name in here)

* Visit [steemd.com/@yourusername](#) just to look around. You're not going to understand it all and that is just fine.

Simply Steemit: Your No-Nonsense Guide to Getting Started:

<https://steemit.com/steemit/@donkeypong/simple-steemit-your-no-nonsense-guide-to-getting-started>

Survival Guide For Super Newbie Writers: Steemit Edition:

<https://steemit.com/writing/@stellabelle/survival-guide-for-super-newbie-writers-steemit-edition>

So You Just Earned Your First Steem Dollars... Now What?:

<https://steemit.com/steemit/@piedpiper/so-you-just-earned-your-first-steem-dollars-now-what>

The Fastest and Easiest Way to Withdraw Your Steem Dollars:

<https://steemit.com/steem-help/@piedpiper/how-to-withdraw-your-steem-dollars-in-less-than-a-minute>

Do's and don'ts:

- Do advertise your post in #postpromotion-moderated, but not more than once in a 2 hour period.
- Do talk to others advertising their posts, maybe they'll look at yours.
- Don't direct message people on steemit.chat to show them your post out of the blue. Politely ask for permission first.
- Don't spam your unrelated post on others' posts. Use discretion in linking if it's on-topic however. Asking first is polite. Never mass-spam.
- Don't beg for upvotes, if your post is good it should stand on its own.
- **Don't @all, just don't. (Yes this is worth saying again)**
- Do source images, articles or other information that are not your own.
- Don't plagiarize others work. This will get you flagged here.
- Do ask for help!
- Do know there are users promoting work in other languages as well as those that help with translations.
- Don't feel you have to only post in English. Some users are posting in two languages.
- Do know that right now we are only allowed 4 posts in a 24 hour period before a payout penalty percentage is applied..
- **Don't @all, just don't. (Yes this is worth saying again)**

Basic Formatting

Centering an Image: Put center tags around the image url

Example:

`<center>http://i.imgur.com/5eJz2mU.jpg</center>`

Making a Clickable Link: You can just copy and paste a link to a webpage (vs a direct link that will show the picture or embed the video). But who wants to see a link 50+ characters long. To make this prettier, you can surround words you want to be clickable with a [brackets] and follow it with the link you want it to goto within (parentheses).

Example:

www.google.com

Since I've been talking about [Google a lot](www.google.com) it is good to have the link directly in my text for easier reading.

Headings: you can use # through ##### at the start of a line or h1-6 tags around the text you want as a heading

Example:

This is an h1 (the largest) heading

This is an h6 (the smallest) heading

<h1>This is an h1 (the largest) heading</h1>

<h6>This is an h6 (the smallest) heading</h6>

Italicising and Bolding text: Put a single asterisk or underscore before and after what you want to italicise. Use a double asterisk or underscore for bold.

Example:

This will be in italics

This will be in italics

This will be in bold

__This will be in bold__

Bullet Points and Lists: Put an asterisk(*) at the beginning of a line with a space after it to make a bullet point. To make a sub point, at the start of the next line hit the spacebar *twice* and then put an asterisk(*). This will indent the sub point for you since we can't hit tab in the Steemit editor. For ordered lists just use numbers followed by a period. Use *three* spaces before the number to indent a sub point.

Example:

* A bullet point will be before this text

* This sub point will also have a bullet point but also be indented

1. This is the first point in an ordered list

2. This is the second point

- * This is a sub point
- * This is another sub point

Quotations and Quote Sources: To make a block quote simply start the line with a > followed by a space and then the text. To quote the source of the quote, goto the next line and start it with >- followed by a space and then the name of the source. [NOTE: You MUST give a hit return an additional time after the block quote or it won't close it correctly.]

Example:

> This text is a quote about something amazing

>- by Author P. Worrell

This text got included in the quote because it didn't have an extra return.

This text is NOT included in the quote because it DID have an extra return.

Formatting Guides

Markdown Cheatsheet: <https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet>

Professional Tutorial for Post Formatting, both for Beginners and Advanced users:

<https://steemit.com/writing/@minion/professional-tutorial-for-post-formatting-both-for-beginners-and-advanced-users>

Marketing Tips

Who is your Target Audience and what Tags do they frequent?

This is really quite important. With the way Steemit is setup right now, searching for things can be quite difficult, so if you don't catch someone at the right time or they are following you, it's easy to be missed. Most topics aren't for everybody, which is just fine. Either start with a topic you want to post about and then find the best tags to reach them, or the reverse of what tags are you looking to 'break into' and what topics are you interested in that apply to their interests.

Will my posts Tagline/Headline catch them?

Remember that most of what we see on Steemit are lists upon lists of posts both on the main site and in steemit.chat (unless you're following somebody.) Because it's impossible to read, let alone click everything, you need to use targeted buzz words to get their attention among the myriad of other posts. If you run into problems, just go down the list of your favorite categories

and see what words entice you and try to incorporate those into your taglines. While it may not get you the broadest exposure, it will increase the chance of you making a connection with users having similar topic interests. Sometimes when I feel stuck coming up with a headline, I goto <http://www.title-generator.com/> to try and spur some ideas.

Will my posts Tagline/Thumbnail Photo catch them?

This is very similar to the above headline topic, just expanded into images instead of words. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and it's true. The image is typically seen before the words of the headline are even read, so the goal here is to be eye catching to your target audience to get them to read your headline. Remember to filter your google image searches for those with a commercial free use licence or sites only with such images like <https://pixabay.com/> or <https://www.pexels.com/>, so no copyrights are being infringed upon.

What value am I adding?

We've all seen the posts that are just a repost of a video, article, etc... which is fine (as long as it's sourced) to be able to get others to read that piece. While it may be looked at or read, you're really connecting the author of the linked piece with the reader, cutting yourself out.

Adding value can be as simple as giving a summary of the piece so I don't have to read the whole thing, giving your reactions/thoughts, why you agree/disagree, or questions/ideas that arose out of the linked media. It just has to be something from yourself, to connect you directly with the reader. Everyone has something valuable to bring to the table.

Bolding an important sentence every couple of paragraphs helps to add emphasis to your main points while also allowing readers to skim through portions of the post while still retaining your message. (We've all done this, read a few paragraphs and then scroll to the bottom. The bolded points and headings are what is seen when scrolling.) Having scannability, especially on longer non-fiction works, provides a huge help to your readers and helps to keep readers engaged enough while scrolling to click that upvote button.

What can I do after I've posted my article to promote it?

Remember that a new post will only be at the top of new and active lists for a short period of time. Little tricks to stay on the active lists when you feel they are slipping:

- hit the edit and update post on your article without changing anything while window exists
- respond to comments
- ask your friends to upvote/comment
- post it into steemit.chat postpromotions (no more that 2 hours apart to not spam) and there may be other channels that are more specific to your target area that you can join. Right now there are about 10 different post promotion or general link channels that are active.)
- Find less general channels in steemit.chat that your posts apply to, such as putting posts on your newest painting in the #art or #design channels.

Once you begin to connect on a more personal level they are more likely to follow your blog and/or pick your name out in a crowd (like a branded cereal such as Frosted Flakes.) If you find this lacking, leave well thought out comments on other people's articles in your target area and when applicable to the conversation, drop a link to your post (try to avoid just saying, I upvoted you, upvote me.) Even 2-3 people upvoting and leaving good comments will help tremendously.

How can I continue the conversation? What is my call to action?

This is where I find it very gratifying. I don't just want the upvotes, I want these people coming back and looking at my old/new stuff. Simply closing your posts with a question or anything that prompts a response achieves this. Examples might be:

- I'm curious to hear your take?
- What would you suggest?
- Any other good reading/video/etc. material you guys know of?
- I'd love to hear your results.

This get conversations going to connect you on a more personal level with your readers as well as get some important feedback of where they stand on an issue or at least their analysis of your work.

<https://steemit.com/steemit/@sykochica/tips-for-analyzing-your-steemit-marketing-approach-inside-a-marketing-mind>

Consumption is as important as production!

- Writing posts is great, but don't forget to read posts as well!

- Reading posts on the active and trending pages, especially outside of your targeted audience tags, can help you get a clearer picture of the overall post activity of steemit.
- Use this knowledge to help establish trends of content that you might be able to engage in, or offer a unique viewpoint on.
- Trending topics inside of your preferred zones/tags can help you identify where there might be “holes” of missing content that you can fill with your own personalized style.
- Comments are for more than just the chance of an upvote, many users value feedback as much as you do, and an engaged conversation may earn you a follower from the author, or even other readers who appreciate, value, respect, or find insight from your contribution.
- Reading the comments of others may help YOU find new authors or content creators to follow! Every user is a wellspring of knowledge and creativity that you can benefit from in some way or another!
- Take the time to read through comments and articles that you may not be as interested in. This can help you get an understanding for the things that other readers like and dislike, as well as help you to better understand where it is you fit in.

My List of Steemit.chat Promotion Channels

- **promotion**
- **curation**
- **general-links-and-discussion**
- **life**
- **mini-whales**
- **minnowsunityHOTCONTENT**
- **minnowsunityORIGINALCONTENT**
- **post-promotion-norules**
- **postpromotion-anything-goes**
- **postpromotion-moderated (default room)**
- **postpromotion-withconversation**
- **steemit**
- **steemit-community**
- **steemposts**
- **steemprentice-links**
- **steemsquadpromo**
- **Whalevote**

There are others that I sometimes use when appropriate, like philosophy or podcasts for example, but the above list is my default for just about every post.

