

Rights

Wisdom and Inspiration · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

You ask about "rights". After four decades in print, radio and television journalism, I am extremely familiar with the assigning, selling or licensing of rights to a publisher or broadcaster. But it would take me many pages of detailed explanation to even make a tiny dent in the topic. And after you'd bored yourself silly reading my long answer, you might feel you still don't understand what it's all about. Frankly, I think it's too early in your budding career as a freelancer to worry about rights. You must spend your energy, enthusiasm and brain cells on creating articles. Without articles to sell, the matter of rights doesn't arise. About one-third of my students worry unnecessarily about little details like rights, because they have "fear of writing" and want to worry about everything except getting on and creating articles. If you want my two-page FactSheet on "Fear of writing" (the exact title please), just ask for it by email. You've got my email address, so after you gain your qualification, you're always welcome to get back in touch with me, and THEN I can bore you silly with a lot of information on rights. But for now, just create articles. Remember, as your personal tutor my aim is to get you published and paid before you end your journalism journey.

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