

## How to Write for a Science Magazine

Science seems to be one of those subjects that divides teenage class rooms. English and Mathematics also seem to have that effect - children and young adults love it or hate it. But science as a subject does seem to have revived itself a little recently, helped a great deal by TV programmes such as *Dr Who*, *Bang Goes the Theory* and Brian Cox's *Wonders of the Solar System*. And so in turn, a rise in the popularity of science magazines has also been seen, which makes it the perfect time to think about contributing to these publications and raising your writer profile. Don't be put off by the subject matter - as Adam Carpenter states, "writing about science and technology is actually more accessible than you might think if you make the right approach." Science magazines usually pay well for articles, particularly if the article is well researched and the subject matter is new and fresh.

### What are they looking for?

- Technological or scientific developments that might affect the way that human beings live and work in the future. Think about positive and negative developments as both are equally as important and interesting to science publications. Also keep in mind the smaller advances or those advances that may have an impact on a local or niche level as these are generally easier to write about, and easier to pitch
- Good cover lines or strap lines are important to any magazine, and science magazines aren't an exception to this rule. Think about how your story could generate a good strap line or cover line when preparing to submit your article
- A balance between strong scientific fact, the ability to provoke a debate, and where possible, an accessible, light-humoured tone and writing style

### The Market

- Academics
- Science students
- Commercial players, particularly in industries such as medical or engineering

### The Competition

- Academics who work or study within this area
- Individuals with an avid interest in science
- Established, regular contributors of the magazines
- Researchers

### Titles

Look at some of the relatively common magazine titles to start with, as these will be the principle magazines you'll be wanting to pitch to, and they will also give you an idea of the style and tone of the articles you'll be thinking about writing. So key publications are;

- New Scientist
- BBC Focus
- Wired

So hopefully that has fired your enthusiasm - now go and do your research; write an interesting and informative article that will boost your pay packet!

**When you have completed your manuscript, keep it from the publisher's slush pile - use the Words Worth Reading Ltd [professional proofreading service](#) and [writer's mentoring service](#).**