

How to become a successful freelancer?

Molly Freedenberg is a writer currently live in Austin, Texas. Before becoming a writer, she worked as a full-time art editor for a weekly newspaper. After resigned from that full-time work, she had experienced working for herself for over a period.

Frieden Berg said: "I'm tired of working for someone else, what to write and when to write have to follow other people's time frame, even wages or employee's benefits or any career advancement are not able to help me to come out from this feeling of discontent."

After resignation, she began to write articles for several companies, however, she soon felt tired of the fierce rush of life, and started to miss those days of working with people.

After experienced a year of unstable income and long lonely time, she was again began to work full-time in a daily newspaper. Workplace experts said that such changes are common. Not everyone is willing or able to adapt to freelance psychological feeling of instability.

Executive Director from Freelancers Union headquartered in New York, Sara Horowitz said that whether you are ready to quit a full-time job and dedicated to engage in part-time jobs, or you were forced to take part-time jobs for livelihood during the transition period of employment, in order to success in part-time jobs, you need to think in many different angles in term of income, taxes, time management, retirement and many other issues.

She added: "It may make you don't know what to do in sudden, because you have to take care of a lot of things that usually your employer is dealing for you, such as social security taxes."

Freelancers Union is a non-profit organization that provides education, community support services, welfare and many other helps to freelancers.

You need to start thinking as a small enterprise, since you are fighting alone.

In addition, you can hire a person to help you establish an accounting system for your financial management. You also have to discipline yourself to keep 30% of your income to pay for federal tax which is based on quarterly basis.

Fortunately, as a freelancer, you may be eligible to enjoy a higher deduction on medical insurance, part of the rental fees, mortgage, mileage and other enterprises related taxes.

Prepare you own freelance contracts

Horowitz said that freelancers need to prepare their own freelance contracts to protect themselves. There are a lot of network resources and books to help you prepare the contract, and then you can ask a lawyer to do the final checking for you.

Besides, you have to plan your daily workload and work according to the plan. Without the strict supervision from boss, it is easy for you to slack off. Therefore, it is more important to maintain a daily workload as planned. Even if you do not have many customers, you can still

make good use of time by finding new customers, marketing yourself, write a blog and keep yourself active in the industry networking.

Let your acquaintances in the industry know the latest news of your works through social media and hold some luncheon or coffee gatherings occasionally to keep in touch with people. If you feel necessary to work in team, then you can make cooperation with other freelancers.

Please think twice if you plan to embrace customers from your former employer. According to Lynne Eisaguirre, the founder of Workplaces that Work, a workplace consulting firm headquartered in Denver, although this approach is bounded by the Non-Competing Agreement (at least it is so theoretically), but what more important is regarding moral ethic. Grabbing other people's customers will destroy you and your former employer (might become an ideal source of regular works) relations. Moreover, it also may adversely affect your reputation in the industry.

Eisaguirre said, "Reputation is one of the most important things to be protected by a freelancer."