**From Facts to Fascinating: Writing Nonfiction for Kids**

Rachel Pfeiffer

Editor, *Clubhouse*

**Choose Your Topic**

Your topic needs to be:

1. **Specific**: a topic narrow enough to cover in your allotted space without being too broad or general
2. **Relatable**: a topic kids will find interesting or helpful
3. **Relevant**: a topic that connects to the reader’s life and offers something for the reader to walk away with (This ***doesn’t*** mean the topic must be serious, though.)

**Do Your Research**

* Sources
	+ Multiple
	+ Reliable
	+ Authoritative
	+ Objective

**Research for Specific Topics**

* Primary sources are key for historical articles.
* Commentaries and Bible dictionaries are important resources for devotionals and faith-based material.
* Look to industry leaders when possible.

**Select a Structure**

What will be the most engaging format for the nonfiction piece?

Option 1: Paragraphs

Option 2: Chunks

Option 3: Quiz

Option 4: Timeline

**Conduct the Interview**

* If you’re writing a profile, you should request and conduct an interview. Within this process you should:
* Thoroughly research the person you’re interviewing.
* Request an in-person, video or phone interview.
* Make the article topic and purpose clear to your interviewee both in your interview request and when you begin the interview itself.
* Have a plan to record and transcribe your interview. Make sure to let your interviewee know that you will be recording.
* Ask good questions.
* Listen well, talk very little.

**Capture the Reader’s Attention**

* Draw the readers in using:
	+ Fun photos/art
	+ Strong opening that’s active, funny, and/or engaging
	+ Humor
* Use fiction techniques to make nonfiction interesting:

**Keep the Readers interested**

* Use a lively, friendly tone that fits your topic.
	+ Your article should NOT sound like an encyclopedia entry.
	+ Your article should NOT sound like a Bible commentary.
* Write to the correct reading level.
	+ Don’t dumb the topic down but make it approachable.

**Write with a purpose**

* Write your article with a purpose in mind.
* The purpose could be:
	+ A connection to a holiday or season.
	+ A connection to current events.
	+ A response to a need in the audience.
	+ A reflection of a themed issue or month for a magazine or website

**Submitting to Clubhouse and Clubhouse Jr.**

***Clubhouse***

Include research, sources, interviews as relevant

Email to: Rachel.pfeiffer@fotf.org

All submissions should receive a response within 12 weeks

Website: [www.clubhousemagazine.com](http://www.clubhousemagazine.com/)

***Clubhouse Jr.***

Include research, sources, interviews as relevant

Email to: Grace.kelley@fotf.org

All submissions should receive a response within 12 weeks

Website: [www.clubhousejr.com](http://www.clubhousejr.com/)