



## Six Tips for Writing a Newspaper or Magazine Column

1. Columns usually are shorter than other articles in a publication. Newspaper columns run around 500 to 800 words; 2 1/2 to 3 typewritten pages. Learn to write tight.
2. Write a list of column ideas and keep them at your desk so you don't draw a blank.
3. Write a one-sentence summary before you write your column. Keep it in front of you to help you keep on track. This is especially helpful when you're beginning to write columns.
4. Keep a notebook with you and jot down column ideas and information as they come to you when you're away from your desk or computer.
5. Try keeping one month ahead with your column writing unless you're writing something that's timely, like reporting on current politics or sports events.
6. Always meet your deadlines.