

Blog Post Planner

Get ready to write your next blog post

Blog Post Planner

A successful blog is filled with a steady stream of keyword rich, well written, relevant content that is properly categorized. Sometimes, the writing of the 500-word post is the easy part. This checklist will help you manage all the other steps.

Planning the Post

How Often – At a minimum, you should be writing four blog posts a month. For inspiration on what to write and how to write check out our Blogging Success Guide.

Date: Pick your launch dates and stick with them. Setting a regular schedule makes it easier for your readers to find new content and you will find the deadlines help you stay on track.

Working Title – You must start somewhere, so brainstorm 4 topics. Once you start writing, don't be afraid to change your working title

Ideas, Inspiration, and Links – As you start fleshing out your concepts capture notes, links to other resources which support your opinion, of sites you might want to include links to, from your post.

Keyword or Phase – Which of your top keyword will this blog post be centered on? Take a few minutes to think of synonyms and related phrases which will help you bring variety to the post.

Categories – Every blog should have several categories that allow you to cluster related blog posts and make it easy for visitors using the search function to find more articles on the same topic.

Call to Action – Every page on your website should have a logical next step. Maybe it is a link to a download, video, podcast, contact form or quiz. Don't leave your readers hanging. Be sure to plan for the next step.

Getting Ready for Launch

Once you have written your post, you aren't done. Be sure to check all these boxes to transform mediocre content into a standout post.

Proofread – Nothing destroys your credibility faster than typos in the first paragraph. If you aren't a detail person assign the task to someone else on your team. If you are a solo entrepreneur, then trade proofreading with a friend. But don't launch without it.

Alt Text - Remember to add alt text, relevant images names or a description to each image. This helps search engines index the visual content of your page just they do the words. Also, for visually impaired people visiting your site, the name "jpeg" does will not help them get the full benefit of your message.

Featured Image – This little picture serves two valuable roles. First images will encourage visitors to read individual articles on your blog. And one of the best ways to widen the reach of your content is through social media shares, the featured image will help drive traffic from social media platforms.

SEO – Make sure search engines can index your content properly by creating a relevant, keyword rich title, unique keyword URL and meta description. If you are using a WordPress Website, the Yoast SEO tool from Jetpack makes this easy.

Links – One of the best ways to help visitors and search engines more through your site is with links. Be sure to add links to older posts from each new post. This is also a great time to go back and give a little love to the older post. Consider adding more information or another image to refresh the older post as well.

Schedule – Once your post is done it is time to schedule it. It is helpful, but not required to post at the same time and day each week.

Publish – Be sure to check that the blog post went live when it was supposed to. Sometimes it is a system error, sometimes a user error. Either way, it is worth taking the time to double check.

Social Share – Grab the link, and share your new blog post on relevant social media sites

Optional Newsletter – Give you blog post a boost by sharing the link in a weekly or monthly newsletter.

Use this Planner Again and Again

Publish Date:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proofread
Working Title:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Alt text to images
Ideas, Inspiration and Relevant Links	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Featured Image
	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEO
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Link to Another Post
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Headings
Keyword and Synonyms:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Schedule
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publish
Categories:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Share
Call to Action or Next Step	<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional newsletter