
Elliot Chan

writer

bio

Elliot graduated with a Digital Film and Video diploma from the Art Institute of Vancouver in 2008. From there, Elliot worked in a variety of media and theatre roles, including acting, writing, directing, post-production and even stand-up comedy.

Writing wasn't his first love, but it was his most tender love. Now—with his experience from the Print Futures Program and publications like the Other Press, Ricepaper Magazine and Techvibes Media—Elliot is ready for his next adventures in the world of copywriting, publishing and all things written.

experience

copywriting

content marketing

feature writing

editing

production management

design

researching

creative writing

copy writing

TECHVIBES

At Techvibes Media, Elliot reports, profiles and researches topics on the Canadian tech startup industry, in addition to attending events and interviewing professionals/subject matter experts.

Elliot Chan is a clever and diligent writer who consistently meets deadlines and is capable of making any topic interesting to read about. His unique voice combines subtle humour with accessible prose and never wastes a word.

*Knowlton Thomas
Managing editor of Techvibes Media Inc.*



“Put your hands up in the air! Vancouver-based Indiloop is remixing the way we listen to our favourite tunes. The cloud-based platform enables users to mix, match and create songs that might have otherwise only existed in David Bowie’s dreams.”

“A full-time romance and a short-term intimacy is of equal value and that is exclaimed in Ashley Madison’s slogan, ‘Life’s short, have an affair.’”



“One of two things needed to happen: either people had to get smarter, be more organized, and find more time in their day to process all their book keeping—or the act of accounting had to become more accommodating.”

“While apps like Skype or Facetime behave primarily like a phone call, Perch resembles an open window. It didn’t matter if you are connecting an office in Toronto to an office in Vancouver or from the workplace to your kitchen at home; the creepy-factor is something the Perch team wanted to eliminate.”



“I parade the Sphero 2.0 around for a bit, navigating it into crevasses of my house that I never knew a little glowing orb could go. Although the game play is innovative the controlling is not easy in tight parameters. The game requires the users to over come a slight learning curve.”

TECHVIBES

Elliot has represented our brand well by interviewing local entrepreneurs and profiling their startups in exciting ways. He is a well-rounded writer who is efficient and reliable.

*Robert Lewis
Editor-in-chief of Techvibes Media Inc.*

NU Data Security

“Patients are forced to find time in their busy schedule, travel down to the physician’s office and wait in a crowded waiting room. Vancouver-based company Medeo.ca might just be the cure to that great inconvenience. The new online platform offers patients the ability to consult with their doctors through most computers and mobile devices.”



“A website is not a house: you can’t lock the doors, bar the windows and sound the alarms every time someone browses. You want those who visit to feel welcome, after all that is the whole purpose of a website.”



“It seems everywhere we look these days startups are appearing—and disappearing. A study by Allmand Law earlier this year showed that 90% of all tech startups fail. Gradual growth or sudden decline, Mattermark will filter out the companies for investors’

“We have all gone hunting for power outlets and been prisoners to the cord, but now Ottawa-based Powerstick is freeing us from the restrictions of limited battery life.”



“There are now numerous touch points for companies/tailors/customers interaction, and online presence is just one. Although Indochino is exploring the vast landscape of the Internet to appeal to a broader audience, they believe retail stores have their own advantages and shouldn’t be ignored.”

INDOCHINO



content marketing

Unhaggle

The Smartest Way to Buy a Car

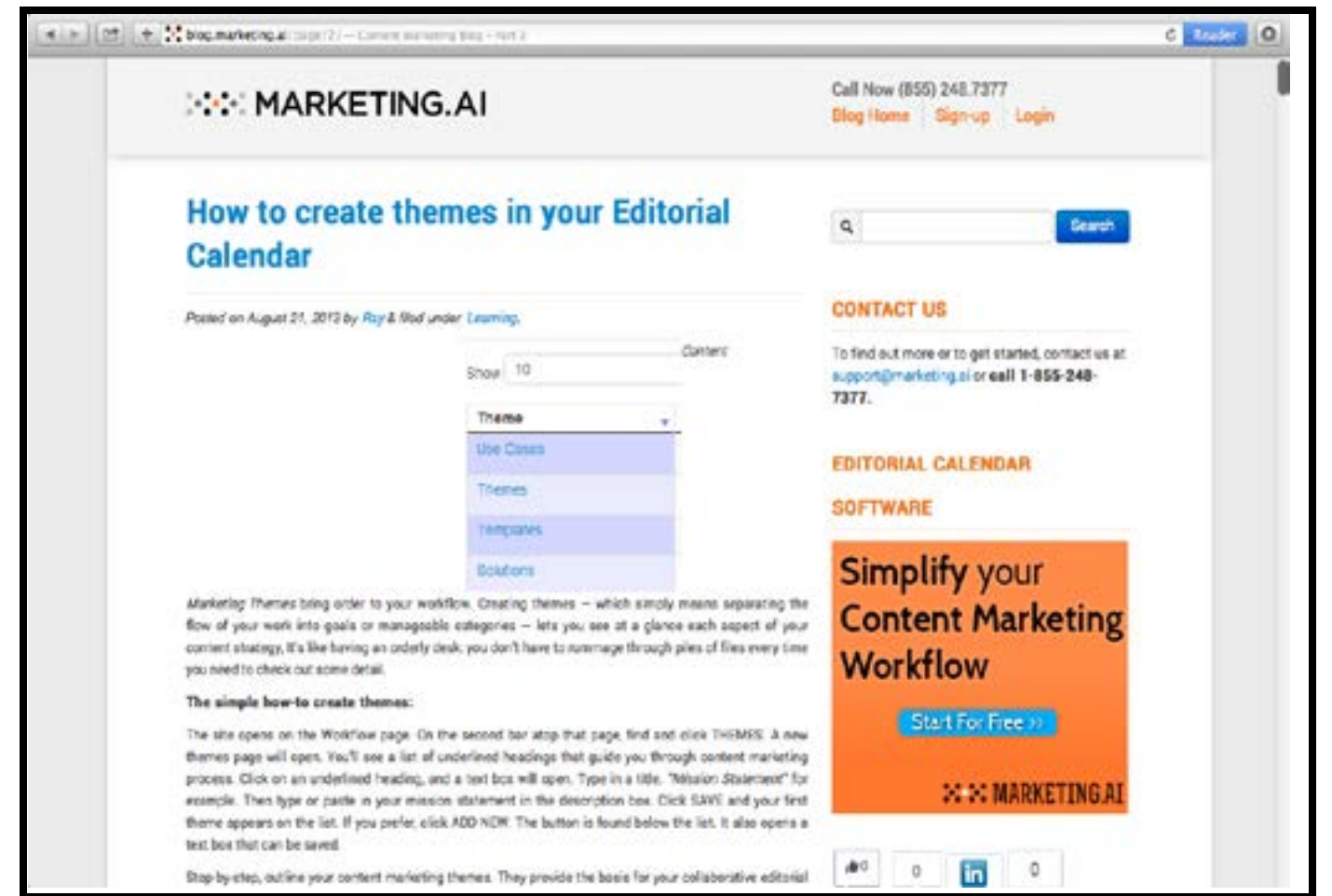
 **MARKETING.AI**

 **LemonStand**

Content marketing is an advertising technique that allows companies and organizations to reach their audience through useful, valuable and creative content.

Elliot's articles are always well researched, reported and written. Elliot also has directly contributed to our 95% increase in blog readership in unique visitors. I would recommend him in a heartbeat to anyone looking for a fast learner who will produce actionable results!

*Vijay Jeyapalan
Marketing Director at Unhaggle.com*



feature writing

The Other Press.

In addition to being the opinions editor at the Other Press and editorial assistant at Ricepaper Magazine, Elliot contributes regularly with feature articles that require research, interviews and insightful anecdotes. From art to science to social culture, Elliot uses feature writing to explore the full range of his curiosity.

I consider myself lucky to have spent the last two years working with Elliot Chan at the Other Press. While already a proficient writer from the get-go, Elliot has quickly become a cornerstone for the publication, sharp-witted and never short of an opinion.

Jacey Gibb
Editor-in-chief of the Other Press

By Elliot Chan, Opinions Editor

It's a cornerstone of North American culture to cherish independence. But how can parents really know when it's the right time to strip off the training wheels and allow their children to go careering into traffic? How are the young adults going to balance work, school, and a social life while managing a household, or even just a small one-bedroom apartment? In this society, the ultimate proof of maturity isn't a beard, a full-time job, or a college degree—it's irreversible debt.

If you're between the ages of 20-29 and you're still living with your parents, relax—you're in healthy company. The 2011 Census of Population by Statistics Canada reports that approximately 42.3 per cent of young adults in that age range are still living at home. This figure is much higher than it was in the past few decades, though: in 1991, the figure was 32.1 per cent, and in 1981 it was 26.9 per cent.

"Thirty is the new 20," I remember some people saying when I reached the double-decade mark in my life. I wasn't sure what that phrase meant then, but now I do. What they meant to say was that we now have until our 30s to get our shit together and build a life of our own. I must have wiped a bead of sweat off my forehead upon hearing that, feeling a bit relieved by the extra running room, but as it stands, with so many financial obstacles on the horizon, the dirty 30s may lead to more shameful realizations.

The quarter-life crisis

You did this to yourself—or maybe your parents and friends nudged you a little bit. Either way, you're on your own now. No longer will your life magically clean itself when you're off to school or work. Independence is an admirable trait, and most will respect you for it, but is paying your way through the hardest part of your life worth it? Taking a step forward is great, but you would hate to take two steps back.

Failure to launch is one thing, exploding in mid-flight due to a lack of preparation is a disaster all on its own. Or, at least, some will see it that way.

Progress is important. It's what life's all about, but there are no bad experiences so long as you learn something. Moving back home happens, and there's nothing wrong with it. But how does one recover after such a detour?

Whether you lost your job or got evicted, moving back home is an embarrassing endeavor. As disgraceful as it is, it still happens. A recent survey by the Pew Research Center showed that approximately 36 per cent of American millennials are living with their parents, thus labelling them the "boomerang generation."

Even when you do return home and see the room you grew up in, nostalgia hitting you as fast as your mother's nagging, remember that this is your chance to display some redeeming qualities. Don't—I

repeat—don't fall back to old high school habits.

First off, you're no longer allowed to whine about your parents. Consider another safety net: who else would catch you when you fall?

There aren't many choices.

That being said, you're now entitled to have a lock on your door, if you don't have one before. You've created your own independence, and it's important that you continue to keep your space separate from that of your parents'. Let them know that your room is sacred and should be respected, and vice versa.

Pay rent. Your parents will understand that you're financially unstable—duh, you're back home—but do chip in to show your appreciation. They may love you unconditionally, but they still deserve a retirement. Paying a bit of rent will mitigate the guilt.

Get out of the house as frequently as you can. Don't loaf around waiting for an opportunity to knock on daddy's door. Here is where you bounce back with grace. Seek work tenaciously, volunteer, intern, take a course, do anything to show your family that you're not going to boomerang again—you're going to slingshot.

The follow-your-passion generation

The social stigma of living at home with your room and dad needs to stop. Parents need to understand the struggles that their children are facing. Since the recession in 2008, the unemployment rate for young adults has remained relatively unchanging—at about 14 per cent, says Statistics Canada. That might not seem high, but one in four working millennials with a college degree has a full-time job that doesn't require it. Moreover, almost half of young people are in low-paying employment such as retail, food service, or low-level clerical work—none of which are enough to reverse student debt.

There are many names for our generation these days, but the one I prefer is the "follow-your-passion generation." Some may see it as indulgence or underachievement, but I don't. It's easy to settle and fall into a repetitive job and become a life, going from paycheck to paycheck, frugally supporting yourself and a family. Although student debt, the bank, and the Hotel of Mom and Dad may seem like a millstone with higher interest rates than expected, we must remember the ultimate goal: it might all be a ticket to a better life.

It's not easy pursuing a passion. Even though you want to be the ultimate success story, the model of independence, and a perfect example of a self-made person, the fact is "self-made" anything is a complete fiction. After your values a bit: don't just aim to be successful, be gracious as well. Accept help when it's offered, and return it. After all, the hand that feeds you needs you.

The perfect storm for us millennials is unfortunate, and braving it alone can be daunting. Moral, emotional, and financial support can do more for young adults than a dingy \$600 per month basement suite. Avoiding the risk of fostering entitlement and sloth, parents willing

to accommodate their children until they have a firm footing must understand the difference between independence and interdependence. Parents must humble their children without discouraging, and support them without smothering.

Kids, don't view your parents' home like a probation office, because it isn't. It's your home, too. You've been living there for 20-something years. You might have had some chores now and then, but your room and dad never counted on you to do any heavy lifting before. By contributing now to the mundane housekeeping, you'll prep yourself for the inevitable. Just like the boomerangers, show your family progress. Regardless of the length of your stay, take them out to dinner and tell them about school, work, or anything else. Believe it or not, your parents really do want you to be happy—so quit complaining about how unfair life is.

Remember, as long as you're contributing, you're not mooching.

The third culture kids

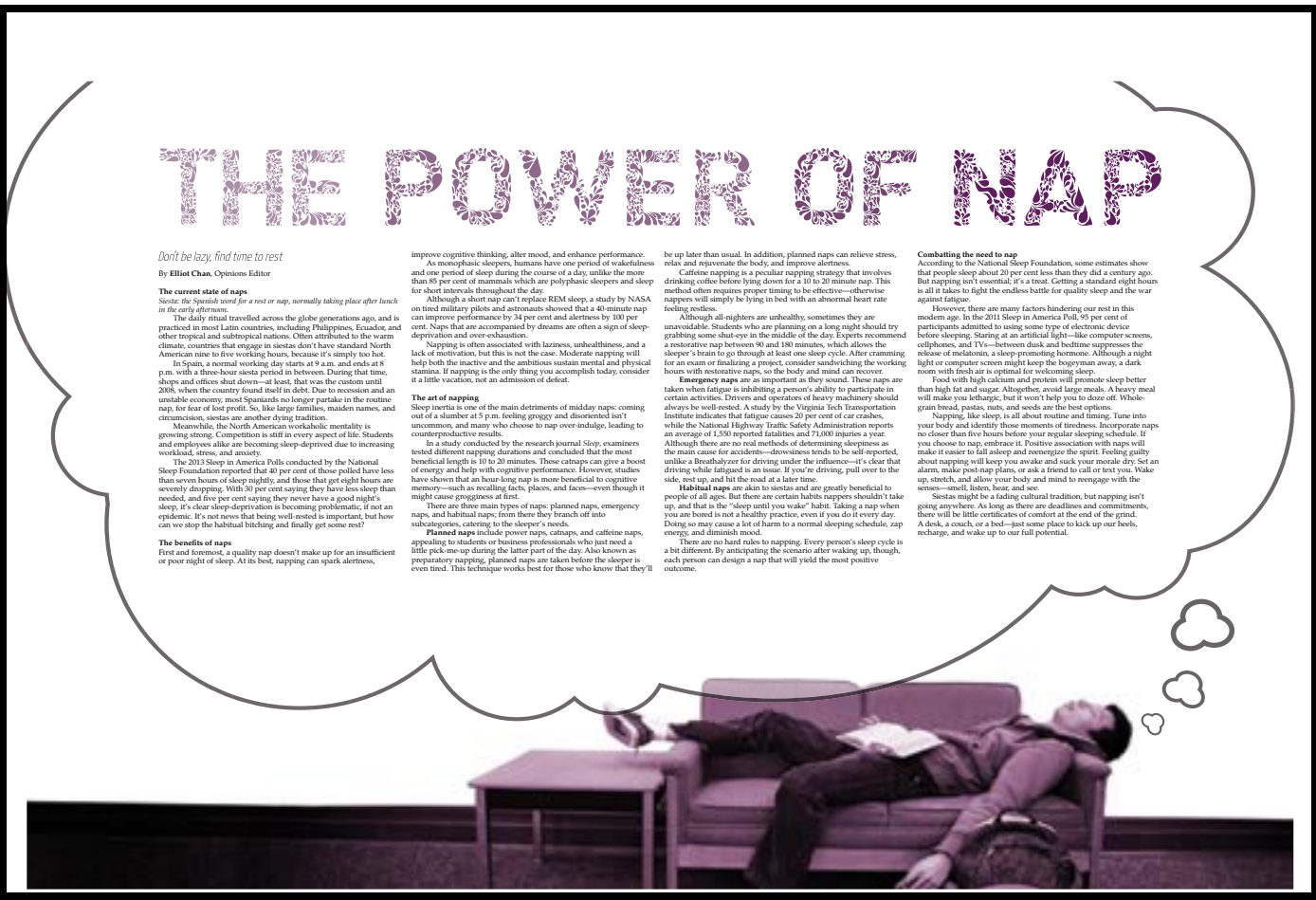
The "third culture kids" phenomenon is becoming more prevalent today due to the high immigration rate throughout the past several decades. The best way to describe a "third culture kid" is with colour—bear with me: if parents from a blue country move to a yellow country and have a child, that child will grow up in a green world, thus trapped between cultures. I am a third culture kid, and I am currently facing the decision: should I abide by the customs of my ancestors, or of my home?

Occasionally, my parents will remind me of all their successes when they were young. After all, at the ripe age of 24, they were married, starting their own business, and had a mortgage and a child (me). I have none of that, but I do offer expertise that my parents don't have. Whether or not they think of me as an investment is besides the point. The point is, I am their only child and sinner or later, due to Chinese customs, the responsibility will fall on me to take care of them not some pension plan or retirement home—me.

That is the prevalent tradition in many countries, including Italy, India, and South Korea. In Anglo cultures, multi-generational households seems to be a burden, but it's in fact highly beneficial. These households create their own little community, where each member plays a certain role to minimize the stress and responsibility.

To move out before marriage would be abandonment, and to families that practice this custom, they see shame in the defiance of responsibility—not in a lack of independence.

So here I am, in my mid 20s, dreaming the Canadian dream, torn between what I want, what my family wants, and what society deems respectable. So the decision, like my bed, remains unmade: should I stay or should I go?



ricepaper

Asian Canadian Arts and Culture

ARTIFACTS:

VANCOUVER'S NEWEST
ASIAN CANADIAN VOICE, JANIE CHANG

ELLIOT CHAN

New Town Bakery and Restaurant in Vancouver's Chinatown named with conversations and kitchen chatter, filling the dining area with a familiar ambience. As a plate of dumplings arrived, Janie Chang smiled up at her son, smiled and insisted that we share. "You are supposed to share when you are Chinese," she said.

It was this old habit that fuels Chang's writing. Her need to share the stories her father had told her and to help it pass on to the next generation of eager listeners. The same way it was handed down to her. But another driving force for Chang's debut novel *Three Souls*, published by HarperCollins in August 2013, is guilt, a simple emotion that can linger for a lifetime. "I feel the benefit of growing up and listening to those stories," she said, "and having a strong sense of family continuity. My stories and experiences never got that sense. I documented them. Spoken word is ephemeral medium. If you don't document them, then they will never be those stories." With a fear of more, letting her son, writing, be the most thing to do. Tales of dragons, ghosts, supernatural behaviour, a proud immigrant, Chang's father. Like a loved photograph and down from one generation to the next.



each story was cherished by Chang. Although the stories are now shared with anyone, it is still an honest connection between her and her ancestors. Chang recognized the responsibility and privilege of preserving such delicate artifacts, like patching up ancient embroidery or re-stitching antique chairs. Her receding of her father's tales demanded meticulous skill and respect.

But unlike life, stories don't have to follow the logic of physics or nature. In *Three Souls*, characters die and live and then are born again. After the primary character Leiyen's funeral, her spirit remains trapped on the earthly plane, unable to leave until she resolves the events of her life with the assistance of her yin, yang and lost souls.

Like Leiyen, Chang's life has been one of many wanderings, although of a more earthly nature. Chang was born in Taiwan, but moved to the world steadily until arriving in Canada at the age of 14. Her globetrotting lifestyle was due to her father's occupation with an agricultural group associated with the United Nations. "I always like to say that he used to help under-developed nations produce more food," she said with an air of whimsy in her voice.

Growing up in international schools in Philippines, Iran and Thailand made her practically literate in her own native language. "I have been raised to learn all the western literature. In that sense it wasn't that much of a culture shock," said Chang. "What was a culture shock was having gone to school, international school, where everybody was a guest in that country. To move here [in Canada] and to feel like everybody that I went to school with has known each other since kindergarten — I was the outsider. The schools I went to go to, every two or three years the parents would get transferred to another job and they would leave. That was just the way it was." But it was her ties with family that kept her here and made Canada her home.

Genuinely blessed, Chang still acknowledged the hardships of being an Asian Canadian writer — and an Asian Canadian woman. Having once worked in a Fortune 500 computer company with an immense training program, she recalled what an instructor once told her. As a woman of colour, she was doubly vis-

ible and would be under greater scrutiny. But coming from a Chinese family, high achievement was expected. "None of my employees had to put any pressure on me," Chang added. "The upside of all those years of being very hard working in a high-tech industry made me realize that I've been putting off my writing ambitions."

Juggling the need to please the parents, the demands of a job and the demands of marriage, Chang found that the opportunity to write was fleeting, just like her stories. "I did not want to let go of my writing. I was thinking to myself, 'why didn't I try harder to write that book?'" Chang was very close to the fate of Chinese women like her grandmother, who were not able to control their destiny. They were mostly possessions to be married and traded. At a young age, Chang's grandmother was married off and dropped in a remote town in China called Pinglin. "She was caught in a confluence between cultures," said Chang, describing both her grandmother and her main character in *Three Souls*. "There was east and there was west. There was traditional, where women were traditionally raised and she could see there was a generation of women who had career potential. It was just a life wound."

Although Chang often found pity and guilt in remembrance of her grandmother, she also knew it was her duty to honor her and the courageous life she lived. Haunted and inspired by her grandmother's life, Chang looks back from her present reality.

In 2001, Chang enrolled in the Writer's Studio program at Simon Fraser University, a privilege that her grandmother was not only disallowed, but also punished for. "She wanted to go on and be a teacher," said Chang reflecting on her grandmother's dreams. "She wasn't allowed because women from that class of people weren't supposed to work, or what was the point of having a career. So she ended up working from home but she was caught. While working, she was supposed to go to university, but she was caught."

Three Souls, Chang found that her first novel and her grandmother's story did not only reflect those of previous generations, but also of current immigrants. Those who sought life in a foreign country had to deal with the parent's want for their child to succeed and be successful.

UNLIKE LIFE, STORIES DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW THE LOGIC OF PHYSICS OR NATURE. IN THREE SOULS, CHARACTERS DIE AND LIVE AND THEN ARE BORN AGAIN.

DISCORDER

that magazine from CTR 101.9fm

Top Less

Gay Love Tekno Party

It's the sound of a queer party in Vancouver's Chinatown, a place where the community is growing. It's the sound of a queer party in Vancouver's Chinatown, a place where the community is growing.

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by ELLIOT CHAN

lettering by
CRA MACY
photo by
TJ SO

"I don't understand what it is—I have a weird idea about it."

"It's like a queer party in Vancouver's Chinatown, a place where the community is growing."

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The long-awaited sequel album by DISORDER is now available for purchase and download on iTunes. The album features the most accomplished, although their CD release time was brief, expect them to be on the stage again and again.

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editing

The Other Press.

As the opinions editor at the Other Press, Elliot is responsible for delivering five to six quality opinion pieces weekly by managing and editing submissions from contributors, while offering feedback to help them improve as persuasive writers.

In order to perform his job, Elliot must be able to recognize Canadian Press Style Guide mistakes, misinformation and grammatical errors.

Opinion writing can help you understand the thoughts in your head and influence the world around you. Well-crafted persuasive writing is a commodity to society like nothing else; the movies on TV, the books on the shelf, and the technologies changing our lives all began with one person convincing another about the brilliance of their ideas. Regardless of the size of an opinion, each one is as unique as the person who forms it.

So step up! Let us know what you have to say—because writers are the creators of worlds.

The OP.

FORMATTING

TIPS FOR WRITING A QUALITY OPINIONS PIECE

FONT & SIZE

9.5pt Palatino

SPACING

Single spacing between lines

INDENTS

No indent on 1st paragraph;
25" indent on subsequent paragraphs

FILE FORMAT

Use Microsoft Word. Save your file like this: "OPINIONS_Topic_DRAFT.doc" for example. I would save my Honour article about magic cupcakes like this: "OPINIONS_MagicCupcakes_DRAFT.doc"

Start strong



OPEN WITH A LEDE

Back it up



SUPPLY DATA, REFERENCES, OR QUOTES

Don't fight



THINK TWO STEPS AHEAD OF THE READER

Don't rant



RANTS ARE THE TOOLBOX OF AN OPINION PIECE...

Discover



BE PREPARED TO DISCOVER

No pressure



NOTHING IS WRITTEN IN STONE

HEADLINE STYLE

- Write your headlines/sub headlines in sentence case
- Bold writer's name

Ex:
Lenten retreat
Pope Benedict resigns
By Eric Wilkins, Contributor

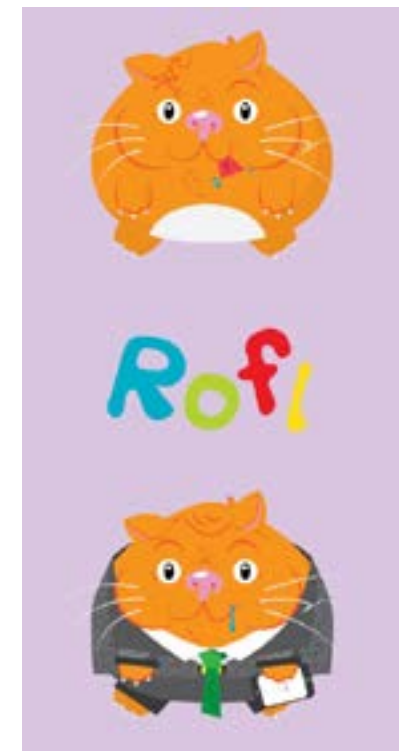
STYLE & GRAMMAR TIPS

- Use Canadian English, the Canadian Oxford Dictionary, and Canadian Press style.
- Use a serial comma when you have a list of three or more things. Ex: "The serial comma is neat, cool, and awesome."
- Spell out whole numbers below 10 and use figures for 10 and above
- Use a short dash to show a range, unless it's preceded by "from": Ex "September 15–October 9"; "1999–2001"; "Sharon is always fun from nine to five, but boring from six to 10."
- Use a long (em) dash to show a break in thought—and for emphasis!
- Capitalize the principal words in the titles of books, films, plays, poems, songs, speeches, works of art and other compositions.
- Italicize movies, books, TV shows, & albums
- Put "Song Titles" in quotations
- Use double quotation marks except for headlines and quotes within a quote
- "Put commas and periods inside quotation marks."
- Avoid clichés like the plague.

production management

Elliot's experience with production management stems from his days in cinema when he used to produce and direct short films and videos.

Now as a writer, he understands that many projects require collaboration as well. Working with a group of writers, editors and an illustrator and designer, Elliot was able to lead the team in creating *The Adventures of ROFL Cat: A Tale of Internet Slang*, a children's-style book with adult content concerning Internet jargon.

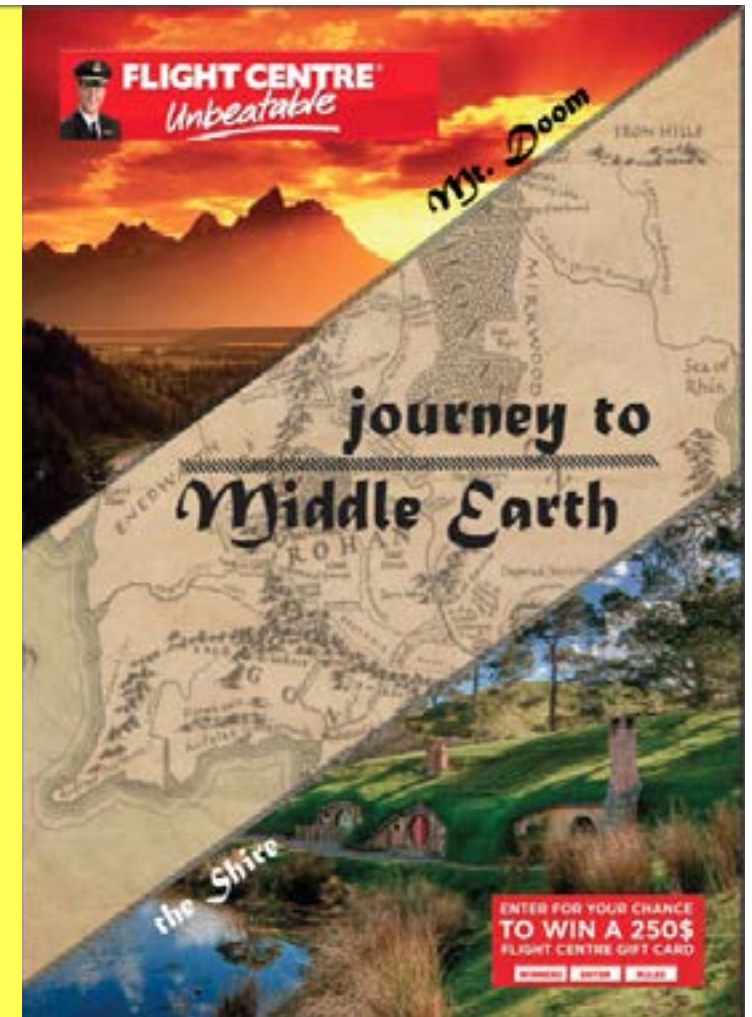


ROFL Cat is like any other domestic feline. He loves belly rubs, a good LOL with friends and a newly reupholstered couch to scratch. Unfortunately, with his busy schedule, ROFL Cat does not always have time for face-to-face interaction; but thanks to technological innovation, he can stay connected—and so can you! Follow the adventurous ROFL Cat as he runs errands, mingles with friends and explores the world of Internet slang.

design

As a designer, Elliot simply believes in having fun with the work he does. The worst thing that can happen to a designer is getting too focused on completion and earning a paycheck. There will always be little details that need fixing and a good designer will rarely find perfection — but they'll definitely aim for it.

With experience working with professional softwares including Photoshop, InDesign, Final Cut Pro and After Effects, Elliot is always prepared to create something out of an idea deep in his head.



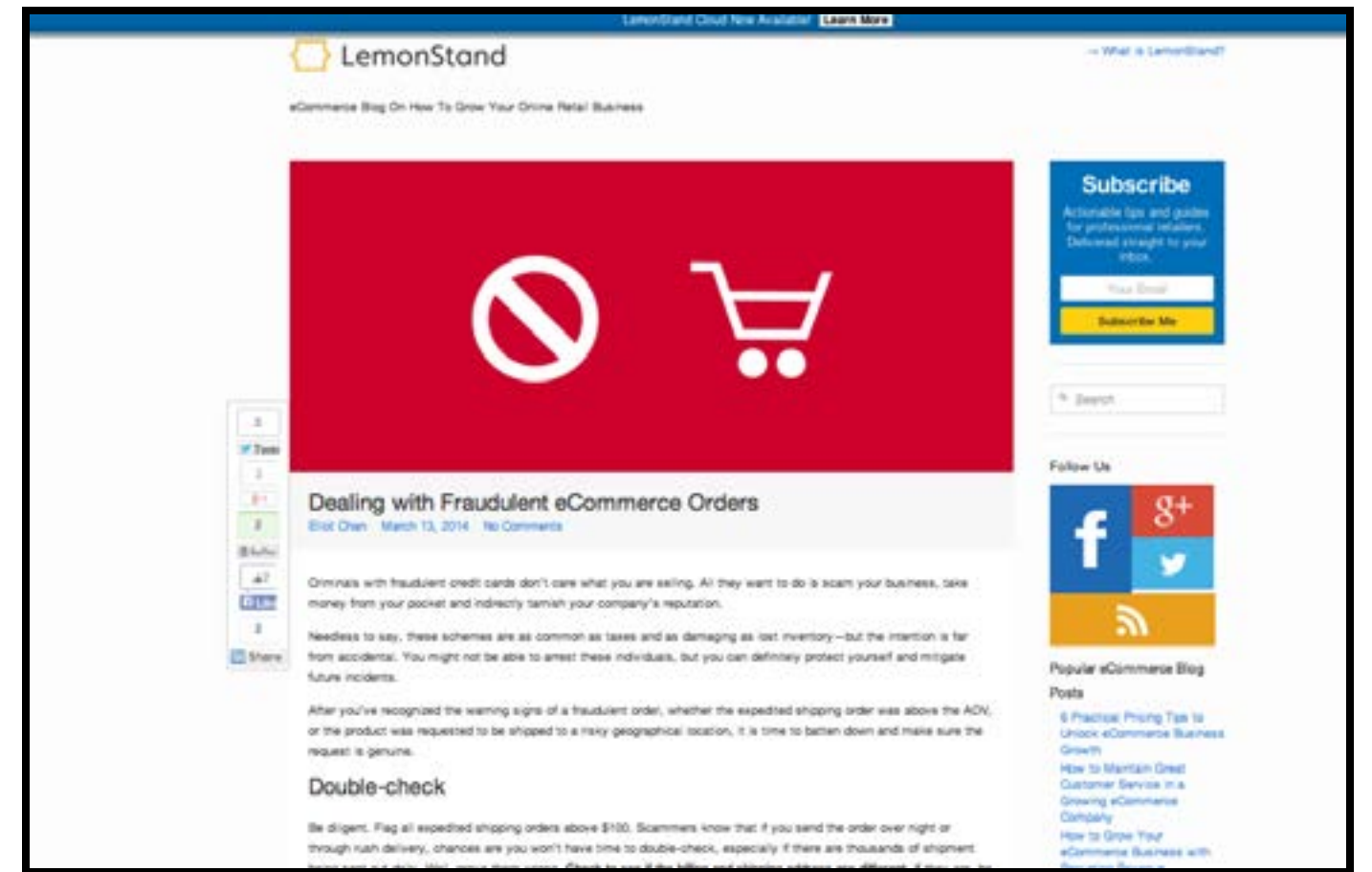
researching

Researching is a tedious job that leads to highly informative writing that has pure value to many.

As a writer, Elliot must also be a researcher in order to present his readers with the most accurate stats, facts and quotations. He does this by strategically searching the Internet, resource books and performing informational interviews with subject matter experts.

Elliot's work has helped me win new clients and retain old ones. I appreciate his curiosity, which I find makes him adaptable to both new topics and new areas of old topics.

*Herbert Lui
Wonder Shuttle Media Inc.*



creative writing

Whether it is a novel, a short story, a poem or a song, nothing satisfies Elliot more than finishing a work of creative writing. It's a hobby that borders the line between profession and obsession.

Although the landscape of publishing is changing rapidly, Elliot is undaunted. There are so many different methods to present a piece of work today that he is eager explore as many as he can. It doesn't matter if his books end up on a bookshelf in the library or on a mobile device, what is important is writing, finding the perfect words and telling the best story possible.

novel

The Past In Between, by Elliot Chan

Some people get second chances, but Constable Seth Southgate and Van Vuong are much luckier, they've got many more—unfortunately chances aren't privileges, they aren't measurable, and they aren't always acknowledged. From a hospital bed and a prison cell, the two men face the repercussions of their choices, recall the chances they received, and wonder when the trigger was pulled and their fortunes faded.



novella

Ben, by Elliot Chan



A sheltered young man sets off on a trip to South East Asia in an effort to escape his business-oriented father and his pretentious North American lifestyle. The hot sun, the bug bites, and a man who calls himself Ben lead him through the lust, ecstasy, and agony of a life too far from home.

short stories

On rare occasions, I'll think about all those people who have mistreated me. I wonder if they remember what they've done. Then when the fume settles, I'll think about my own bad deeds. I'll remember all those times I've plummeted to such lows, writhed in my own contemptible vortex and ascended up again. I hope some day I'll be able to escape this loop, this vicious circle — this noose of bad intentions that we all hang from.

An excerpt from

Knots

a short story
by Elliot Chan

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