



*Dream of
Travel Writing*

Article Nuts and Bolts: Putting Together a Profile of a Person

by Gabi Logan, founder of Dream of Travel Writing

A blurred background image of a coffee shop table. In the foreground, there is a white cup of coffee with a saucer and a spoon. To the left, a smartphone is visible. In the background, there is a vase of purple flowers and a laptop. The text "Today, we're going to talk about..." is overlaid in the center.

Today, we're going to
talk about...

1. Why should we focus time and attention on writing profiles?
2. Who can we profile?
3. Breaking down one (because they're long!) inspiring profile piece
4. Pitching FAQ





Before we get this train moving...

Did you know profiles are the secret to developing the skills you need as a travel writer?

A person is seen from behind, wearing a blue backpack and a dark jacket. A blue book with the word 'Pattern' and a large letter 'A' is tucked into the top of the backpack. The person is standing on a dirt trail with a blurred background of greenery and a bright sky. Another person in a red jacket is partially visible to the right.

Who can you profile?

You might be surprised...

Let's have
a look at
some
real-life
examples!



The background is a collage of tropical-themed images. It includes a wooden table surface, a glass bowl containing dark soil and green leaves, several pineapples in various orientations, and several small, overlapping photographs of tropical landscapes and objects. The overall aesthetic is warm and natural.

What does a profile
look like on the
page?

Beats

- Background, sourcing, details
- Tons of descriptions setting
- Scene – meeting the protagonist
- Beats incredibly clearly defined
- Scene – reminiscing, story of the bender tour
- **Scene – Willy Nelson breaking him out of sobriety**
- Background, commentary
- Scene hike, description hike, shared language around being lazy
- Background what what he has been up to
- **Background about how got into acting**
- Scene, hippie haute launch
- Background, how he chooses
- **Scene, relaying very chronologically story of the film**
- **Scene, daughter chastizing him and then hugging him**

Profiles Can Defy Structure, But...

- Profiles evolve like classic features in many ways
- Scene, background, scene
- The lead is almost always in media res
- The close is almost always a scene rather than commentary

Pitching FAQ

- You can't know in advance "what it will be about" because you shouldn't have done the interview first
- You do need to get permission to do the interview first
- "Classic" (a.k.a. long profiles) are based on several interviews

Thanks so much
for joining us today!

It was a pleasure chatting
travel writing with you 😊

Have a follow up question on this webinar? Email questions@dreamoftravelwriting.com and we'll cover it in an upcoming webinar or in our Monday reader mailbag post on the Six-Figure Travel Writer blog.

