

1000 Ways to Start a Business with \$1,000 or Less

#96 and up - Low Cost Business Start Ups

96. Start a Grant-Writing and Editing Business

"My first college essay was returned covered in red ink. Mark after mark covered my paper leaving me sad and disheartened by what I believed to be my strength. Asking my teacher why I received such a poor grade, she simply replied "No one ever taught you the rules."

From that point on, I took it as a personal challenge to learn and master the rules. After years of hard work and studying the rules of grammar and the English Language, I knew that I could craft each and every word and sentence into perfection. Upon graduating from college with a Bachelors Degree in English and a proud member of the Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society, I knew that I had finally "learned the rules."

I created Exemplary Editing with the desire to ensure that people would not feel those same feelings of hurt and despair when they turn in their documents to be graded or reviewed.

Exemplary Editing helps people develop documents that are worthy of imitation. We do this by providing grant writing services and with our website. [Exediting.com Beta](#) is a global service marketplace for students, professionals, businesses and writers to hire, manage and pay our remote editors and copy-writers to help make their documents worthy of imitation.

Our clients have been selected for thousands of dollars in grants. We have helped clients win essay contests and get into these top colleges and universities to study law, business, psychology and other disciplines. Our clients have worked for government agencies and companies in the sports and entertainment industry. – Gresham Harkless & Travis Mayfield, [Exemplary Editing](#)

97. Start a Nifty Candy Sandy Candy Business

"From the age of 3, I was always trying to come up with candy concepts. My Dad who is the inventor of the Jelly Belly jelly bean tried to encourage me to think on my own. He never told me that any of my ideas were either stupid or just would not work. He was and is the best Dad in the world. I used to love to do sand art and after you stare at them for a day or so they just collect dust. One day I was looking at an old sand art creation, and I thought it looked like candy, thus Sandy Candy was born. It is very unique because kids can create a sand art and then they can eat it.

After coming up with the idea, I approached my Dad and we started [www.niftycandy.com](#). It took some time but eventually we had a perfect formula and a great tasting product. As a manufacturer, we sell it to individuals who want to sell a fun and profitable item at events. We also wholesale our products to stores of all types. Besides Sandy Candy, we also have a fizz version, a shine version, one that colors your tongue, and Roxy Candy pebbles. Kids of all ages enjoy making their own candy sand art creation.

The nice thing about this candy craft concept, is that you do not need lots of money to get started in selling it. Also, the product has a super long shelf life so you do not need to worry about it ever going bad. Most people sell it right away, but the fact that it has a long shelf life, is a great feature.

There are few business opportunities that one can get into with a nominal investment. With about \$100.00 you can get a kit with 100 straws, caps, and plenty of candy. Selling only 100 straws, will bring back at least \$400.00 and at an average event, most people sell at least 300 items. When we talk to you on the phone we actually take the time to make sure Sandy Candy is the right product for you. We are not interested in just taking your money and have the product sit in your closet. Also, it is a great way for your kids and relatives to help you and to learn that money does not fall from the trees." - Thanks to

sponsors and the event was a success with over 100 people in attendance and this was my FIRST event." - Thanks to Jess Loren of [Mix Media Solutions](#)

94. Start a Vlogging (Video Blogging) Business

"I am a vlogging and modeling mama for my site mamamodel.com. I first started vlogging during my pregnancies because I had so many friends always asking me for diet and lifestyle advice. I was also doing maternity modeling and thought it would be a good way for companies to see me and what I was about before hiring me. Almost instantly I began receiving comments from people wanting to hear more and even began getting free goodies in the mail from companies.

Excited and encouraged, I decided to take it up a notch. I spent about \$50 in website domains, \$75 on a wordpress theme that I am in the process of tweaking myself (luckily I know some CSS coding tricks), \$40 toward website tracking software, and invested \$400 on an iPhone so I could respond promptly to inquiries at all times. Eventually, I also spent \$3500 on an HD video camera to get commercial quality film.

After I established a better network in my new home state, California, and made friends with local media mavens, I created all-inclusive packages for companies who need new marketing images and videos but don't want to spend precious time and money casting through craigslist or agencies. Instead, they come to me and based on their budget, I can give them HD videos, High Res professional model images, and access to my existing network of avid readers and buyers. All the company has to do is send me details, products, and payment and I take care of the rest! The only catch it is must be a product or service I approve of: natural, eco friendly, and awesome, because I am very real with my viewers. My babies and I have also been booked as "real clients" and spokesmodels for various companies who saw me off of my pages.

I have been leveraging CastingNetwork, Facebook, HARO, and Craigslist for all my jobs and media connections with great success. Now, my next step is to hire a PR firm who handles SEO, red carpet events, press releases, magazines, etc. in order to go to the next level of success. This will cost about \$2000/month, which is far less than most retail rents and is the only monthly expense over \$50. For very little risk and expense, blogging and modeling is the most thrilling and fulfilling job I could ask for and I am being paid handsomely for it." - Thanks to Mama Heather of [MamaModel.com](#)

95. Start a Consulting or Freelance Business

"For a grand or less, anyone can start a consulting or freelance (e.g., content creation) practice. From marketing and finance to education and tech support, using your expertise to advise, create for or even teach others can be managed with just a phone line (land or mobile) and internet access.

Chances are you already have a client base—people you've been advising for free or creating content for because you enjoy doing so. Offer to do the same for an hourly or a flat rate. The difference is you'll be getting paid to do what you enjoy most.

Your expertise and proven success will create awareness via word-of-mouth and therefore, increase sales. As your income increases, allot monies from each sale to cover marketing expenses like business cards, Google or other ads, and a website. A website may be created and easily maintained for next to nothing via major email providers. Ecommerce providers like PayPal charge nominal per transaction fees, which means you, can expand your client base regionally and nationally without limiting your cash flow.

Does your consulting or freelance practice have an international target audience? Do you provide a service where meetings are essential for business? Do you have to work with others on an assign? Video conferencing platforms limit the need for in-person meetings while "putting a face to a name". Video conferencing also allows you to do business internationally at a fraction of the cost of using a landline. File and desktop sharing limit the need to report to an office and increases efficiency.

Add a viable product with exceptional customer service and the return on your \$1,000 investment is more than guaranteed." - Thanks to Isha Edwards, [EPIC Measures LLC](#)

...to be continued in the next post.

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