



Tips for Writing Your Super-Interesting Bio

KEEP IT SHORT

Describe yourself in three to four sentences.

WRITE IN THIRD PERSON

People generally write a bio in third person, rather than first person. Think of yourself as a story that you are describing to someone else in one short paragraph.

NAME YOURSELF

- Use your full name (first and last) when you first describe yourself. After that, you can opt to continue describing yourself with your full name, only your first name, or only your last name.
- Write a bio using your first name if you want to develop a friendly relationship with the reader (for example, when applying for a job) and write a bio with your last name if you want to be a bit more formal and authoritative.
- Whether you choose to write your bio with your first or last name, remember to stay consistent.

WRITE ABOUT YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Now that you know which point of view to use, start writing a brief account of your achievements. When you write a bio, only discuss your high points and not a full description of your career. The key is to remain brief.

Cite the most critical pieces of education and work in your dance career with actual dates and names.

PERSONAL DETAILS ARE OPTIONAL

You can include personal information when you write a bio, but this is entirely optional. Usually people like to know what you're like and what you like to do outside your professional career, but writing it is entirely up to you.

SHOW YOUR CHARACTER

While you write a bio, make sure your personality shows through. If you're humorous, put some humour in the bio (be careful with humour though). If you have a passion, talk about it! A bio is more interesting if it conveys something unique about the writer.

BREAK A LONGER BIO INTO PARAGRAPHS

If you decide to write a bio that is longer, break the bio up into paragraphs. However, don't have any more than three sentences in each paragraph or else your readers will just scan through the bio. After all, you want your readers to actually read your bio right? So, keep each paragraph short.



10 Questions to help you get your creative juices flowing...

1. Where were you born and raised?
 2. Where, what and with whom have you studied?
 3. Where and what have you performed?
 4. Where and what have you taught?
 5. How did you first become interested in dance? How old were you?
 6. What do you think is distinct about your style?
 7. What aspects of dance do you like the most/ what do you do best?
 8. Are there other dancers in your family? What was your upbringing like?
 9. What are your goals for your dance career?
 10. If you had one thing to say about dance, life or learning, what would it be?
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Writing Your First Draft



Once you have the above information clearly written down its time to put your statements into paragraph form. Don't worry about the order in which you put this information down at this stage, but it is a good idea to start by addressing who you are.

Example - a 147 word bio

Mikhail Nikolaevich Baryshnikov is a Soviet-born Russian American dancer, choreographer, and actor, often cited alongside Vaslav Nijinsky and Rudolf Nureyev as one of the greatest ballet dancers of the 20th century. After a promising start in the Kirov Ballet in Leningrad, he defected to Canada in 1974 for more opportunities in western dance. After freelancing with many companies, he joined the New York City Ballet as a principal dancer to learn George Balanchine's style of movement. He then moved to New York to dance with the American Ballet Theatre, where he later became artistic director.

Baryshnikov has spearheaded many of his own artistic projects and has been associated in particular with promoting modern dance, premiering dozens of new works, including many of his own. His success as a dramatic actor on stage, cinema and television has helped him become probably the most widely recognized contemporary ballet dancer.



Editing and Writing Your Final Draft

Read your bio carefully. Next, set it down, walk away and reread it in an hour or two. If possible have a friend of someone you trust give it a read and provide you with feedback. Carefully check the spelling and grammatical accuracy. This is the time to tweak sentences as necessary and get everything just right!

It is wise to make two versions: one short 50 - 75 word, and one longer 150 word

By the end of this process you should have a well polished, super tight, and super interesting bio ready to go. Remember, like anything else, the more you practice the better your bio writing skills will become! So don't be afraid to revisit your bio a few months down the line and update as necessary.

My Notes...
