

# How to Come Up with **BLOG TOPICS** When You're Staring at a Blank Screen



# How to Come Up with Blog Topics Even When You're Staring at a Blank Screen – Easy Tips and Techniques



*free blogging ideas report  
from Loretta Oliver at [Niche Twitch](#)*

*Disclaimers and blah, blah, blah:*

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Whether you just started blogging or whether you've been blogging for years, coming up with new topics can be a big challenge. It's something every blogger has to deal with eventually. You want to keep your content fresh and new and you want to keep your readers engaged, but you're not always sure what to write about. Sometimes if you've written 100 posts for your blog you might feel like you don't have anything new to say.

**So how do you come up with new blog post ideas?** Here are eight brainstorming exercises and tips to get the creative juices flowing again! These tools will help you come up with new ideas consistently so you're not struggling to create your content and you can push forward with your internet adventure.

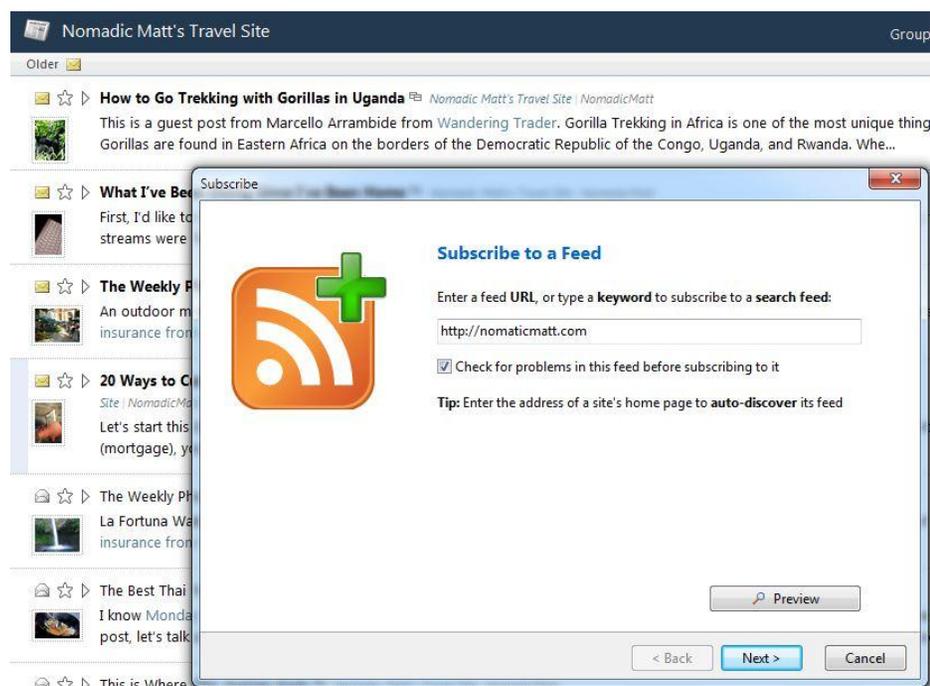


# #1: Subscribe to and Scan RSS Feeds in Your Niche

Download an RSS feed client on your computer or in your smartphone. Then go on a subscribing spree. Subscribe to every blog feed you can find in your industry. Subscribe to at least ten different blogs.

Now anytime you run out of ideas, all you need to do is whip out your RSS reader. Read through some of the things other people are talking about and use it as inspiration.

Of course you should *never* directly copy someone else's title. But feel free to use other people's ideas as stepping stones. You can even steal an idea, as long as you don't copy the actual words, just make sure to add your own spin. Also, be kind in your blogging like you would in your daily life, link to the original source.



## #2: Use Google Instant (aka Google Suggest)

Use Google's Instant search tool to come up with ideas for what other people might be interested in. You can learn more about the tool at <http://www.google.com/instant>

For example, let's say you're in the [cooking](#) niche. You could do something like:



Just change out different words and different wordings to come up with a variety of different potential keywords to target.

## #3: Play Around with the Linkbait Generator

This is a fun one. [Linkbait Generator](#) is a unique online tool that allows you to create very creative and attention catching titles at the click of a button.

Now, some of these titles probably won't make sense right out of the gate. Instead, use the ideas and words generated by Linkbait Generator to source your own title.

For instance, typing in "find a job" might land you a headline something like this...

7 bizarre ways find a job can kill you suddenly

Generate

find a job

Replace

Reset

singular subject  plural subject

While you might not be able to use this headline on its own, you might instead turn it into something like: *7 Bizarre Ways Looking for a Job Can Get You Fired Instantly.*

## #4: Pick Up a Magazine and Flip Through It

If you're in an industry that's large enough to have magazines, subscribe to as many of the magazines in your field as you can. In a few months, you should have a big stack of magazines that you can use as idea fodder.

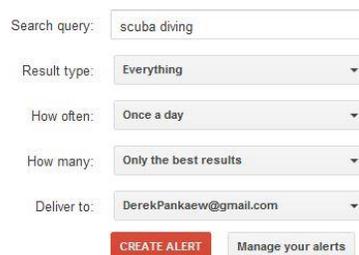
Also, many public libraries keep archived copies of newspapers and magazines. You can literally browse magazines from months or even years ago for free at many major libraries.



Go through these old magazines and look for ideas. Look for things they covered that nobody on the internet is covering. Print articles often involve a lot more research to write than online content. Print content requires sources, quotes, statistics, verification, etc, that online content just doesn't need. The print world and the internet world are quite different. That's why it often pays to look in the offline world for inspiration for your online content.

## #5: Set Up Google Alerts for Your Topic

Google Alerts (<http://www.google.com/alerts>) is a free online system that will alert you by email whenever certain keywords or phrases appear in blogs or news articles. You can use Google Alerts to come up with topics in one or two ways.



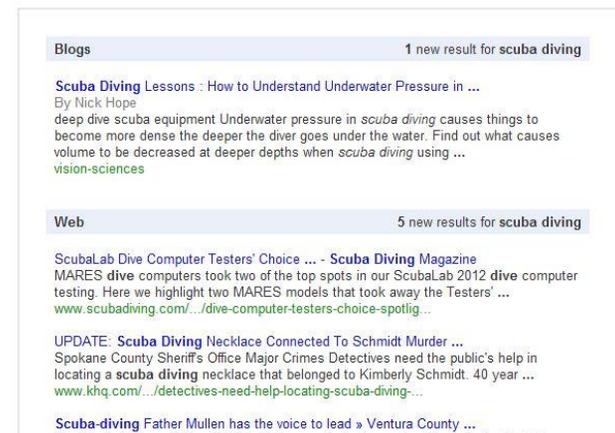
Search query:

Result type:

How often:

How many:

Deliver to:



**Blogs** 1 new result for scuba diving

**Scuba Diving** Lessons : How to Understand Underwater Pressure in ...  
By Nick Hope  
deep dive scuba equipment Underwater pressure in *scuba diving* causes things to become more dense the deeper the diver goes under the water. Find out what causes volume to be decreased at deeper depths when *scuba diving* using ...  
[vision-sciences](#)

**Web** 5 new results for scuba diving

ScubaLab Dive Computer Testers' Choice ... - **Scuba Diving** Magazine  
MARES **dive** computers took two of the top spots in our ScubaLab 2012 dive computer testing. Here we highlight two MARES models that took away the Testers' ...  
[www.scubadiving.com/.../dive-computer-testers-choice-spotlig...](#)

UPDATE: **Scuba Diving** Necklace Connected To Schmidt Murder ...  
Spokane County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Detectives need the public's help in locating a **scuba diving** necklace that belonged to Kimberly Schmidt. 40 year ...  
[www.khq.com/.../detectives-need-help-locating-scuba-diving-...](#)

**Scuba-diving** Father Mullen has the voice to lead » Ventura County ...

First, you can use it as a constant stream of ideas. Just put relatively broad ideas in Google Alerts and set it to email you once a day. Every day, browse through the articles and see what ideas you come up with.

Another way to use Google Alerts is to use it to write cutting edge, timely articles. Use it to monitor your industry. Anytime something changes, anytime breaking news hits the net, anytime something controversial happens, you want to publish a piece of content within hours. Often time's the first person to publish content about something is the one who gets all the traffic.

## #6: Take Questions from Your Readers and Answer Them

If you're having trouble coming up with new ideas, why not have your audience do it for you instead? A lot of authors find that their best blog posts actually come from their audience rather than from their own minds. After all, if you're trying to create content that your audience loves, who better to guide you than your audience?



Don't make the mistake of thinking you know what your audience wants without asking. Also don't make the mistake of thinking that what you want to express is always what your audience wants to know about. Ask. Ask for questions and make blog posts out of them.

***I actually do this on several of my websites in different ways.***

On Niche Twitch I have a [Q&A section](#) where I take comments that I've received by email or as comments on the blog and I answer them in their own blog post. If you find yourself answering the same questions by email over and over again, use that content as blog posts or create an FAQ section for your site with it.

On my cross stitch blog I get all sorts of questions from Facebook fans and Newsletter subscribers every week. I started a series I call “[Stitchqueries](#)” where I answer those right on the blog.

The image shows a screenshot of a blog page with a dark blue header and footer. The main content area is white. The top post is titled "Stitchqueries: Does Floss Ever Become Too Old?" and is dated February 9, 2012, by Loretta. It features a large blue question mark icon and a quote from a reader named Mary asking about the quality of old floss. Below the quote is the author's response, which is partially visible. The post has social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and a "Like" button. Below the post is a "Filed Under" section with the tag "Stitchqueries".

The sidebar on the right contains several widgets. The top widget is a search bar labeled "Stitchqueries". Below it is a section titled "FABRIC CALCULATOR APPS | IPHONE & ANDROID" which shows two smartphone screens displaying a fabric calculator app interface. Below this is a section titled "MEET OUR FACEBOOK FAMILY" which features a Facebook social plugin for the page "Stitching the Night Away on Facebook". The plugin shows a "Like" button and a grid of profile pictures of people who like the page.

On VA Helper Blog and Podcast we're using the [Speak Pipe](#) plugin, which is really cool and lets you take voice messages from your readers. I'm actually adding that plugin on Niche Twitch this week as well, so look for that there soon.



That's a great way to collect questions to use for content and it can be re-purposed into blog posts, podcast snippets, or as part of a presentation on the topic.

## #7: Critique an Idea, Business, Website, Video or Trend in Your Niche

Look for something outside of your site that you can give your opinion on. For example, you could critique a trend of thinking in your industry. You could critique a video that's making the rounds. You could also ask your audience to send in their work for critique.

For example, Writerly Rejects creates a lot of content out of having writers send in their pitches for critique. They dissect the pros and cons of the writer's pitch and use real world pitches to illustrate important lessons on their blog.



You can see this example in action at: <http://www.writerlyrejects.blogspot.com/2012/07/pitch-critique-3-4.html>

## #8: Use Your Subconscious Mind

Your subconscious mind is far, far more powerful than your conscious mind. Your subconscious mind is the part of your mind that can read the thousands of different muscles on someone's face to determine what they're feeling.

Your subconscious mind retains a copy of every experience you've ever had in your life. Your subconscious mind handles "intuition" by parsing data and ideas behind the scenes, working hard on problems without you ever knowing it.

One of the best ways to come up with new blog ideas is to harness the power of your subconscious mind. How do you do that? By thinking intensely about a subject, then completely letting it go.



Spend a bit of time thinking about your blog. Then, go for a walk. Or hit the gym. Or take a nice long bath. Relax and let your subconscious mind work on it. Then, when you come back to it, you'll be pleasantly surprised to find that ideas flow much more quickly. Alternatively, ideas might just hit you out of the blue as you're relaxing.

**Make sure you carry a notepad with you at all times so you can jot down these ideas.** Ideas that aren't written down are very frequently lost. Don't overestimate your ability to remember an idea.

I have a notepad and a pen on my person at all times! Ideas are ***everywhere***, you just need to be able to write them down.

If you're not a pen and paper person, you can use an app on your phone or an audio recorder that you keep in your pocket – **just have some way to make note of your ideas** on the spot so you don't forget them later.



## ~ **BONUS TIP** ~ **Blogging Secret Weapon!!!**

Nicole Dean will show you how you can have a healthy, flourishing blog that's full of life and that brings you profits month after month with [\*\*Blog CPR\*\*](#).

This course is a great go-to resource when you're feeling stuck and don't know what to write, plus it comes with some pretty amazing bonuses that will help you make your blog more successful and more profitable.

(Honestly, in my opinion the bonuses alone are worth far more than the \$17 she's asking for the entire course ~ it's a steal of a deal!)



★ [\*\*Give Your Blog CPR Today!\*\*](#)

# Now go out there and write an excellent blog post!

Armed with these idea boosters in your toolbox you'll never have to worry about running out of blogging topics ever again. Find one or two brainstorming and writing techniques that work for you and put them into action now. You can return to this list from time to time if you ever get stuck.



Happy Blogging,

*Retta Oliver*