





50 Tips for Becoming a Giant Squid

By Giant Squid Organizer: Bonnie Diczhazy (otherwise known as [bdkz](#))

We've got our eye on you! You're getting this ebook because we think you've got the right stuff to be a Giant Squid (Squidoo's elite community of Lensmasters). So far you've created some great lenses, started a buzz and gotten noticed... that's put you on our radar.

So what's next?

I've compiled 50 informative links, tips, tricks, inspirational stories, blogs, lenses and ideas that will help you on the journey to becoming a Giant. Read these in order to get the most out of them. If you get inspired along the way, stop and build a lens or two or three, then pick up where you left off. Take your time. If I did my job well, by the time you get to number 50 you'll have enough lenses to apply for Giant Squid status!

First, why Squidoo?

- 1) **Start at the top** - If you've never heard of Seth Godin, you're in for a real treat. Google him! <http://www.google.com/>
- 2) **The Team** – Squidoo HQ is a brilliant, dedicated, amazing group of people that you'll be proud to work with! <http://www.squidoo.com/pages/about>
- 3) **The community.** Because what really drives Squidoo is the community of hundreds of thousands of lensmasters, and nearly 700,000 lenses. When people swap ideas, share their passions, and help each other out along the way, you've got something really special on your hands.
- 4) **Why care about becoming a Giant Squid?** Because Squidoo knows how to treat its VIP Lensmasters! The Giant Squid program offers extra-special perks to its members like... <http://www.squidoo.com/GiantSquids#module8490722>

Impressed yet? Read on...

- 5) **Get on Deck** – The Answer Deck that is. Here you'll find the answers to all your questions...like: Can you explain the royalties stuff to me?, How can I get found on Squidoo? and What are the most common newbie mistakes? <http://www.squidoo.com/theanswerdeck/hq>
- 6) **Why Build a Lens?** <http://www.squidoo.com/whybuildalens>
- 7) **Write what you know** - Some of Squidoo's most successful Giant Squids have created lenses about subjects that they know. Are you an expert quilter, a work at home mom, a teacher, a fire fighter, an environmentalist, a singer, a blogger, a realtor, a SCUBA diver, an engineer, an expert in politics or pop culture? Write about it!

- 8) **Get Profiled** – If you don't have a profile go to your Dashboard and Click on the "My Profile" Tab. You can add a little blurb about yourself where it says "Default Bio". Also add an image or logo. It doesn't have to be your photo but add something fun...a logo, your cat or even George Washington!
- 9) **Who are you?** – Use <http://www.squidoo.com/squidwho/hq> to write your online biography, resume or manifesto. While your at it make one for you mom, boss, gardener, neighbor and best friend.
- 10) **Make a list** - Make a list of reasons why you want to be a Lensmaster and a Giant Squid. The possibilities are endless but making a list helps you focus.
- 11) **Get Help** – If you hit a road block, need some inspiration, a little advice or even a fun story head on over to the <http://squidu.com/forum/index.php>. There are plenty of people that are more then willing to help you out. Squidoo is a community of wonderful people that want to see you succeed so never be afraid to ask for a little help!
- 12) **Concentrate on quality** - The word "quality" has come up a lot lately on Squidoo, particularly when it comes to the Giant Squid Program. In order to be accepted you need 50 quality lenses, but what constitutes a "quality" lens? Here's what I think defines quality and how you can get there! http://www.squidoo.com/Create_A_Quality_Lens
- 13) **Make Your Lens Memorable** - <http://www.giantsquidshowcase.com/?p=161>
- 14) **Network** – Try Digg, Twitter, Gather, FaceBook, MySpace, LinkedIn and of course the SquidU Forum.
- 15) **Stuck?** We've got a gaggle of Lensmasters who'd love to help you out: http://www.squidoo.com/50_Squidoo_How_To
- 16) **Don't give up** - Being a Lensmaster can be a challenging job. Most people have other responsibilities and life often times gets in the way of lens making. If you start to get stressed, take a day off, gather your thoughts, go for a walk. If being a Giant Squid is something that you want to achieve, don't give up!

Got some good lenses brewing? Here are some more ideas...

- 17) **49 Ideas For Awesome Lenses** – from Squidoo Editor-in-Chief Megan Casey: <http://www.squidoo.com/lensbrainstorm>
- 18) **Shop 'til you Drop** - Shopping online can be a daunting task. Amazon has millions of items and it's often times hard to navigate through all the products, especially when you're strapped for time. So what do people need? A personal online shopper or a Squidoo Lens that offers them what they need! http://bdkz.typepad.com/giant_squid/2008/06/creating-a-squidoo-shopping-lens-is-fun-and-easy-by-bdkz.html

- 19) **Go Green** - Here are 50 environmentally conscious lenses by Giant Squids that will make your world a little "Greener"! How would you make the world greener? <http://www.squidoo.com/GoGreenGiants>
- 20) **Review** a movie - <http://www.squidoo.com/squidflix/hq>
- 21) **Make** your own TV Channel - <http://www.squidoo.com/SquidVids/hq>
- 22) **Start** a fight - <http://www.squidoo.com/monkeybrain/hq>
- 23) **Strut** your stuff - <http://www.squidoo.com/SquidBids/hq>
- 24) **Be the Best** Lensmaster EVER - <http://www.ever.com/>

Change the world...

- 25) **It's easy change the world with Squidoo!** – Make a lens, set the payment to a charity on the list. It's that simple.
- 26) **Frankster** – is saving bears in India <http://www.squidoo.com/dancing-bears>
- 27) **The_Homeopath** - is rescuing Donkey's <http://www.squidoo.com/longhopes>
- 28) **Comfortdoc** - is raising awareness for the March of Dimes <http://www.squidoo.com/marchofdimes/prematurity-awareness-month>
- 29) **ChefKeem** - is saving soldiers with Operation Helmut <http://annereidy.wordpress.com/2008/07/31/thats-the-way-to-do-it/>
- 30) **You can change the world too!** - http://www.squidoo.com/Change_the_World_Squidoo

You're almost there...how many lenses do you have?

- 31) **Get inspired** by Janet21 - She's #1 with her lens Are you a Stay at Home Mom (or Dad) Interested in Earning a Monthly Income? <http://www.squidoo.com/workathomewithsquidoo>
- 32) **Be successful** with KimberlyDawnWells - Do Squidoo: A much requested guide to creating a successful Squidoo lens <http://www.squidoo.com/dosquidoo>
- 33) **Improve yourself** with these tips from Megan Casey <http://www.squidoo.com/easyboost>
- 34) **Get mentored** by rms, Giant Squid Organizer <http://www.squidoo.com/giantsquidmentor>

- 35) **Get some tips** from “Me” (bdkz), Squidoo Tips From A Giant Squid Organizer
<http://www.squidoo.com/SquidooTipsFromAGiantSquid>

Now that you’ve got some lenses, create a Lensography...

- 36) **How to Make a Lensography** by Lily_Link http://www.squidoo.com/how_to_lensography
- 37) **Lensographies for Squidaholics** by katiyana <http://www.squidoo.com/building-a-lensography>
- 38) **Best Lensographies Ever?** by Christene <http://best.lensographies.ever.com/>
- 39) **So you want to make a Lensography?** By “Me” bdkz <http://www.squidoo.com/MakeALensography>

Subscribe to these blogs...

- 40) **So you want to be a Giant Squid?** - Run by me, Bonnie (bdkz) you'll find Cool Lenses, Expert Articles, Giant Squid Interviews, Squidoo News, Interviews and tips on what it takes to join the ranks of the Giant Squid! http://bdkz.typepad.com/giant_squid/
- 41) **The Giant Squid Community Showcase** - Run by Giant Squid Organizer Robin (rms) this blog features some of the very best lenses made by Squidoo's elite group of lensmasters, The Giant Squids. <http://www.giantsquidshowcase.com/>
- 42) **The SquidBlog** - The Squid Blog is Squidoo Central! Find out about new tools, contests, tips and other news from entire Squidoo Team. <http://blogs.squidoo.com/squidblog/>
- 43) **Lens of the Day Blog** - Every weekday (or nearly that) Squidoo's Editor in Chief, Megan Casey, highlights a lens that stands out from the crowd, a lens that is unique in topic, approach, personality, tools or timing. Or, you know, just a lens that made her guffaw a little. <http://blogs.squidoo.com/lensoftheday/>
- 44) **SquidU Review** - Get SquidooU news you can use from Kimberly Dawn Wells and the Citizen Squids. You'll also find great tips and interviews here! <http://www.squidu.com/blog/>
- 45) **Seth’s Blog** - Yep, that would be Head Squid Seth Godin. Trust me, you don't want to miss out on this one! http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog/
- 46) **Cheerleading for Charity** - Squidoo's new Nonprofit Organizer Anne Reidy gives you the scoop about how you can give to charity with Squidoo. <http://annereidy.wordpress.com/>

So you want to be a Giant Squid?

- 47) **Get the details** – THE GIANT SQUIDS (and how you can become one) <http://www.squidoo.com/GiantSquids>
- 48) **Apply to the program** with your 50 Quality lenses: giants@squidoo.com
- 49) **Join the Group** - http://www.squidoo.com/groups/Giant_Squid_Organizer
- 50) **Onward and upward!** Next step, The Giant Squid Top 100 Club <http://www.squidoo.com/GiantSquidsTop100>

Bonus: Here are some words from real live Lensmasters to motivate and inspire. Enjoy.

- As a potential Giant Squid, I am excited with every new lens I make because it means that I am one lens closer to becoming a part of one of the best online communities on the internet. WhippetTalk
- To be a giant squid is to be the best that you can be – you are unique; write about what you know. Write about what inspires you; what you are passionate about. For me, it was my passion for fashion that got me started on the road to becoming a member of the Giant Squid 100 Club. JaguarJulie
- The beauty of Squidoo becomes clear after you've made a few beautiful pages. The greatness of Squidoo will be revealed to you when you commit to your greatness as lensmaster. Chefkeem
- A website is a place, a blog is a journey, a Squidoo lens is a signpost that points the way... Loyalis
- Don't give up, be persistent. Look at SquidU because there are lots of tips and support there. Write something everyday. You CAN do it! Rinchen Chodron
- Pick a niche you are passionate about to build lenses on. If you are interested and excited about what you are writing about it shows. Noadi
- If you're a lensmaster who takes many days or even weeks to create a lens, don't let that stop you from becoming a Giant. Slow and steady wins the race. It took me over a year, but finally I had 50 quality lenses! Jimmie
- The first thing I did was make sure that my lenses were good quality and I made sure that I put just that little extra into creating them. Next I made a Goal to create more than 50 lenses by a certain date. Then I worked out what it would take to get there. I made another goal to create two lenses per day most days. That meant that I could miss a couple days if I needed too. It worked really well and before I knew it I have more than 50 lenses. I think it takes FOCUS and Planning. I know anyone who wants to can get there. DiMcDonald

- The secret to a great lens is telling a great story. Rinse and repeat that rule, and you'll be a Giant Squid before you know it, because once you start building lenses, you'll find more great stories that you just have to tell the world. It's fun, it's addicting, it's profitable - it's Squidoo. katiyana
- [The Key is] Dedication, passion and the desire to succeed. Poddys
- It is an encouragement for all your hard work at creating lenses and never quitting through the 'rough days'. It is a chance to interact with others in a quiet and peaceful way because I live my life by the words, " May your days always be filled with acts of kindness!" There is always someone who you can give some stars, favorite it, leave a few kind words in their guest book and join their fan club. It is not the "giant" part of being a giant that is important but I appreciate that it is Squidoo's way of saying "thank you" and I say "you are most welcome". GramaBarb
- Squidoo provides a magnificent platform for change -- a soapbox to spotlight, enlighten and inspire. The big question is, who changes more in the process; our readers or ourselves? Frankster
- Being a Giant Squid is a badge of honor. It's a pat on the back and a handshake to say "you've done a job well done". N376
- Being a Giant Squid is a commitment, a commitment of time and a commitment to quality. Make great lenses, and great things will come of it. KAB
- Being a Giant Squid means I have the power to help raise great amounts of money for needy charities! ThomasC
- To become a Giant Squid, you need at least fifty lenses, but the number of lenses you have is not the only criteria. The Giant Squid shield is a testament to the quality of your work. ElizabethJeanAllen