# STEPHEN THOMAS

stevekwthomas@gmail.com (213) 932-0963

Professional Summary

Writer, researcher, coder. BA Cognitive Science, MFA creative writing. After 6 years as a journalist and writer, during which I wrote "one of the best magazine articles ever," in 2020 I trained to become a frontend web developer, and later became a dev/project manager. I've now switched back to writing work, mainly focused on effective altruism.

#### Work Experience

#### "Humans of Effective Altruism"

grant-funded project for FTX Future Fund Regranting Program

• I am in the early stages of launching a series of magazine-style profiles on interesting people doing high-impact work related in some way to effective altruism

#### Copywriter

contract for Reforge – remote/New York, NY

• I distill lesson plans into a series of concise insights for improved pedagogy

### Writer / Researcher

freelance for Arb Research and Resource Movement - remote

- I am currently helping Arb Research write, research, and edit various pieces. Arb mostly works in the effective altruism space
- Most recently I've helped Arb with: a piece on prediction markets for Works in Progress; on AI talent for the Mercatus Center/Schmidt Futures/the UK government; and on 'advanced evaluation systems' in collaboration with the Quantified Uncertainty Research Institute (QURI)
- I also helped Resource Movement research and write an open letter on behalf of researchers at DeepMind and elsewhere about AI automation's impact on labor

### Web Developer and Project Manager

freelance for Astera Institute - remote/Berkeley, CA

• I single-handedly coded astera.org, and managed the entire project, from handling the contracts, subcontracting a designer, liaising between the designer and the client, and organizing daily stand-ups during crunch time, and setting up the server and custom blog. Wordpress, Cloudflare, REST API (Lever integration), PHP, Sass CSS, HTML, JS.

#### **Web Developer** and **Project Manager** and **Docs Writer** Plogg Media – *remote/Quebec, Canada*

- I create modern responsive websites using Wordpress, PHP, VueJS, CSS/HTML/JS
- I manage large-scale projects using Agile techniques (sprints, epics, stand-ups, Asana)
- I wrote all the developer documentation for working within a new project, synode.ai

### **Freelance Journalist**

- "The Legion Lonely" was Hazlitt's 5th-most popular article of the decade, nominated for a National Magazine Award, & called one "of the greatest magazine articles ever."
- Fluent in a wide range of tones and approaches: conversational news articles for *The Daily Dot*, humor for *McSweeney's*, clickbait for *Vice*, personal storytelling for *CBC*, cultural analysis for Snapchat's *Real Life Magazine*, longform research for *Hazlitt*

### **Copywriter & Interviewer**

Innovate USA – *remote/USA* 

• I created content for dozens of entrepreneurs for a series of B2B books. From one

#### 717 MacDonough St Brooklyn, NY 11233

Aug 2022-present

Oct 2022-present

2020-present

2021-present

2014-present

2019-2020

Jan 2021-May 2022

interview with each entrepreneur, I would create two pieces: a 'Thought Leader' piece (written in their voice), and an 'objective' third-person 'profile' of them

#### **Copywriter & Interviewer**

George Brown College – Toronto, ON

- Rewrote all the recruitment material for every diploma program in the college
- Interviewed faculty from each program and summarized each program's highlights
- Summarized and translated their information into catchy, easy-to-understand copy

#### Writer/Researcher and Website Manager

Probe International – Toronto, ON

 For this environmental advocacy NGO, I researched, wrote and edited web content and a weekly newsletter, working closely with subject matter experts to develop high-impact content for the general public

#### Literary Writer / Scriptwriter

- Created a scripted internet TV show, "Miss Misery," an official selection of 9 web series festivals and the winner of the 2020 British Web Awards' "Best Script"
- Wrote a book of short stories, *The Jokes*, published by Book\*Hug in 2016
- Recipient of grants from Canadian Arts Councils totaling about \$50,000
- Edward F. Albee Foundation fellow, 2012, Truman Capote Foundation recipient, 2010

#### Teaching

#### **Creative Writing Professor** George Brown College Continuing Education - Toronto, ON

- Taught "Expressive Writing" and "Memoir & Autobiographical Writing"
- Consistently excellent feedback, updated all syllabi to reflect contemporary values

### Graduate Instructor

University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL

- Taught 100-, 200-, 300-level English classes (composition, literature, creative writing)
- Education 2020 Front-end Web Development Bootcamp Juno College of Technology – online/Toronto, ON Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing 2014 University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL Bachelor of Arts, Honours, in Cognitive Science 2008 University of Toronto – Toronto, ON
- Worked in the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab. I helped design perceptual psychology experiments, and invented a mathematical model for analyzing our results

#### Editorships

### **Assistant Editor**

The Black Warrior Review – Tuscaloosa, AL

 Helped select and edit fiction and nonfiction manuscripts for the University of Alabama's literary magazine, one of the most prestigious literary journals in America

### **Assistant Editor**

NANO Fiction – *Tuscaloosa*, *AL* 

Solicited, read, selected, and edited fiction manuscripts for this literary magazine

2017

## 2009-present

2007-2008

2011-2014

2015-2018

2013-2014

2012-2013