

# Popular Types of Affiliate Marketing Content



### Introduction

Content is the mainstay of any affiliate marketing campaign. Be it a blog, website or newsletter, it's the content that sells your affiliate product. As an affiliate marketer, understanding what types of affiliate content you can work with and how to use them to their best advantage, will give you a competitive edge.

Here's a list of the most popular types of content for affiliate marketing:

- 1. Reviews
- 2. Product Comparisons
- 3. How to articles
- 4. Tutorials
- 5. <u>Landing pages</u>
- 6. Guides
- 7. eBooks
- 8. Emails
- 9. Listicles
- 10. Videos
- 11. Case studies
- 12. Seasonal Content
- 13. Social media content



# 1. Reviews

Product reviews are undoubtedly the most popular form of affiliate marketing content. Reviews are usually a good way to earn your readers' trust, as you pen them down as a user of the product or service. However, it is important to be honest in product reviews. As a user, you need to be critical and emphasize on both the good and bad of a product. Only then will this trust that you've gained, be carried forward.

Reviews can be of different types. You can write a brief overview of a product or a detailed, comprehensive review, or just a simple list of features where you can tick off the features that a product has.

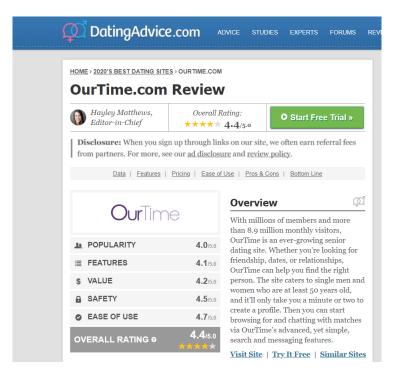
Each of these types has its own advantages. A brief review helps you capture the reader's attention and can clearly convey which products are recommended in just a paragraph or two. This is probably why it is the most common type of review you will come across on most affiliate sites.







Authority Hacker shares this example of a perfect short product review in one of their blogs. It has all the essential information put together in a format that is very easy to scan through. It also includes the affiliate link visibly placed at the bottom, so anyone interested will know where to go.



Another great example is from Dating Advice.



A comprehensive review, on the other hand, can discuss all the pros and cons of a product in much more detail. People like reading everything there is to know about a product, particularly before making an expensive purchase. This kind of review may be great for landing pages or for grabbing organic search traffic, where people are looking for reviews on specific products with an intention of buying.

Feature lists are not exactly reviews in the true sense but can still give the reader an idea of what the product has, in just a glance. You are not expressing your opinions but simply stating what are the features that you found in the product and what features are missing. For this kind of review, you will usually create a list of the features that one would expect in a particular product and then place a tick against features that are there or a cross against ones that are not. This is more commonly used in product comparisons, but you can also use it as a review. Just keep in mind that to make a product sell, it should ideally have more ticks than crosses.

There are a few things you need to remember when writing reviews though. For instance, if you're trying to promote a particular product, you shouldn't neglect other similar products in the market.

Remember we are building trust – honesty and value addition is crucial to that.

Not mentioning any other product or stating how this one is better than the others may make people doubt your credibility. Secondly, make your reviews more educational and informative rather than making them sound like a sales pitch. Remember we are building trust – honesty and value addition is crucial to that.



# 2. Product Comparisons

Product comparisons are another great way to tell users why a particular product is better than others in the market. A buyer is often confused when it comes to choosing between two almost similar products having nearly the same features and that is where your opportunity lies. Providing the buyer with a comparison between competing products and then gently inclining them towards a particular product, showing it in better light than the others can do the trick. It also makes it easier for a buyer to make a decision than a comparison that offers no "best option".



#### 1. NIKON D3500 An easy-to-use first-time DSLR that will show you all the photography ropes

SPECIFICATIONS	Sensor: 24.2MP APS-C Lens Mount: Nikon F
	Connectivity: Bluetooth Video: 1080p Battery Life: 1550 shots
	Weight: 415g (with battery and memory card)
REASONS TO BUY	+ Guide Mode
	+ Extensive battery life
	+ Affordable
REASONS TO AVOID	- No Wi-Fi
	- No touchscreen
	- No 4K video
Today's Best Deals	AU\$519 VIEWATEBAY
	AU\$719 Viewat Camera Pro
	AU\$1,025.50 Viewat Amazon
	See all prices (30 found)





(Image credit: Canon)

#### 2. CANON EOS 250D

A small and neat entry into the DSLR market

SPECIFICATIONS Sensor:: 24.1MP APS-C CMOS Lens Mount:: EF-S

Connectivity:: Wi-Fi & Bluetooth Video:: 4K (cropped)

Battery Life:: 1070 shots

Weight:: 449g (including battery & memory card)

REASONS TO BUY + Lightweight & compact (for a DSLR)

+ Articulating touchscreen

+ Great battery life + 4K video

REASONS TO AVOID - Dated AF system

- 4K video is cropped

Not a huge upgrade over previous model

- Larger than mirrorless models

Today's Best Deals

AU\$654 VIEWAT BECEXTECH

AU\$728 View of Floor

Similar to a feature list, you can create a comparison table having every detail from features to cost to value-for-money and place the competing products side by side. Then simply fill up the chart depending on what features are available in each product and other details. One smart tip here – list more of the features that your product has and fewer of those that it doesn't, but without forgoing any of the essential features of course.



#### Comparison

#### PRODUCT COMPARISON POWERPOINT TEMPLATE



Above is an innovative product comparison, instead of the done-to-death table format. This comparison is made on a powerpoint template and looks much more appealing than a conventional table. Assigning scores here, as in feature lists, also makes it more credible for the audience. Creativity in format gets good marks too.

Again, don't be too obvious in your recommendations and don't let it look biased. Rather focus on giving the buyer all the information that he or she needs before making a purchase and gently put forward your recommendation, as a reference and not a marketing message.



# 3. How To Articles

People search for "How-to" content very often. Affiliate marketing does not necessarily have to be about reviewing a product and recommending it to buyers. You can also help people understand how to use a product or make the most out of it and generate their interest in it. You can start a niche blog and publish such articles. They also are more likely to come up more often in search results.

Now a how-to article may be written for a specific product, instructing prospective buyers how to use it. Or it could be a general how-to article for an activity for which you could recommend products. For instance, if you are promoting art supplies, you could write an article on how to use a particular paint brush to obtain different patterns. Or you could choose to teach how to paint a complete picture and in the end name the products that can be used to create it, linking out to the product pages with your affiliate marker.

Writing a good how-to article is more hard work than you may think. It has to be engaging and useful. It is important that your how-to article covers each and every step of a process, but doesn't bore the reader with unnecessary information.

The heading of your article is equally important as the content. The heading should address a consumer pain point. Such as, "How to repair that dent in your car" or "How to get rid of a sun tan". Choose an area, relevant to your niche, where the reader may be looking for help. You can also skip the "to" in the title and make it more personal to have a greater impact. Like "How I built my own bookshelf in 2 days" - it talks about your personal experience with the products and also provides a step by step guide for the reader. So you are incorporating your affiliate products into your own story seamlessly.



## 4. Tutorials

Tutorials are similar to how-to articles and can be created as written or video content. Written tutorials should ideally accompany illustrative images to make them more useful.

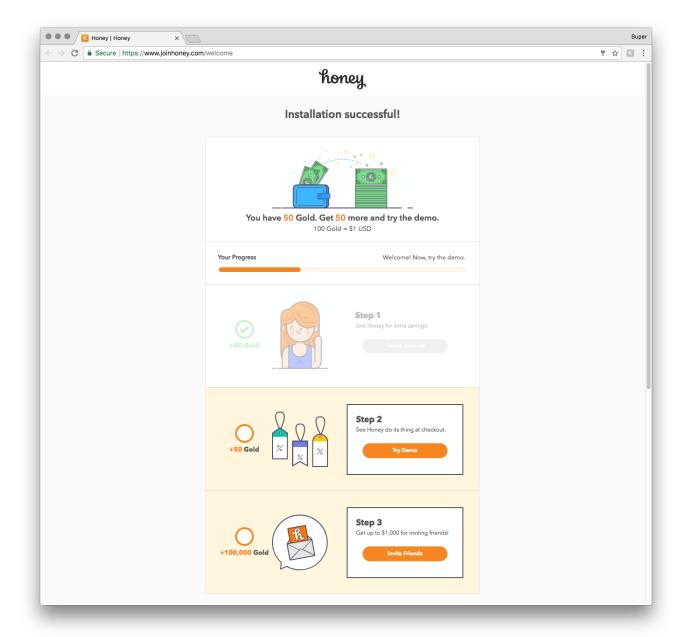
Video tutorials have become very popular. Video tutorials give you the opportunity to actually show your audience how to use a product or how to complete a task using your affiliate products. Be it a software or a physical device, a visual walk through is always much more useful than words alone. Accompany a video tutorial with search engine optimized content on your blog or website, and you can drive traffic both from the hosting site (say Youtube) and your own site.

One question that might come to your mind is how do you add an affiliate link in a video tutorial? Well, if you are uploading the video on YouTube, you can always add links in the description and mention the same in your video. If you are hosting the video on your own website, you can add the link in your content before or after the video.

Videos are, however, a lot of hard work. From shooting to editing to uploading, it is a long process. If you aren't ready for it yet, you can always go for other formats instead – such as a step by step guide with pictures.







This is a good example of a step-by-step tutorial that uses pictures to explain the process. These are easy to view and easier to create as well.

You can take pictures or screenshots at every step of a process and describe each step clearly in writing alongside the picture. You can also record audio to explain the steps and add it to a slideshow of the pictures. Tutorials can be really interesting to work on and are often more helpful to users than other content.



# 5. Landing Pages

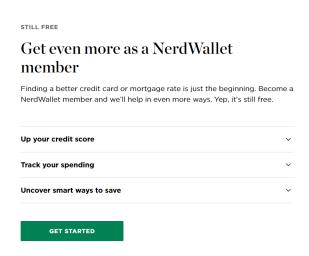
Landing pages are a very important element in affiliate marketing content strategy that we often tend to neglect. Landing pages have the capacity to convert visitors to leads and leads into customers if they are made well.

When you are designing a landing page, think of it from the perspective of conversions rather than just creativity. What is important in your design of a landing page is how to get your visitors to click or sign up or make a purchase.

To design a landing page that converts, you first have to carry out a little research on your target audience. You need to identify their pain points and find out what they want to hear. Unless your content adds value to their lives, it can't connect with them emotionally. Your affiliate products should be able to address these pain points and offer a solution. This will give you a clear idea about what you should add to the landing page and what you can skip.

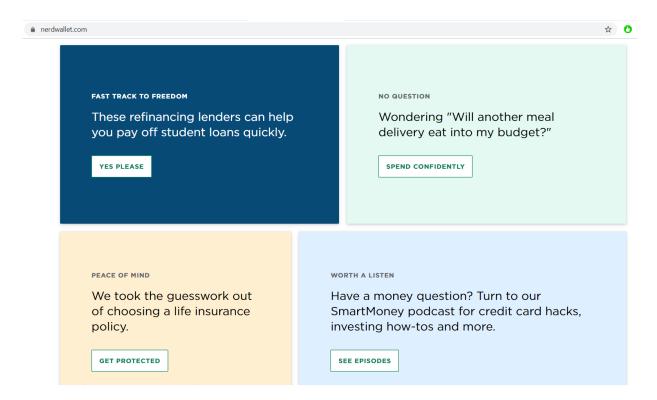
After you have decided on what type of content you should write, it's time to move on to designing the page. The design should be contemporary and clutter free. Keeping enough of empty white space between content helps visitors focus on the more important sections. You need to drive your visitors' attention towards what you want them to see. If your offer or the link to the product page is not easily visible, visitors may lose interest and abandon the page. So, a minimalistic design highlighting the Calls-to action or coupons being offered is your priority.







The NerdWallet landing page is a good example of a clear and crisp design that has just enough information to attract visitors and keep their interest in the site growing.



They have also used some very smart CTAs that don't sound like a sales pitch but can actually convince people to opt in.

If you are not much of a web designer yourself, you can always take the help of designing tools like Instapage, Leadpages or Unbounce that have predesigned templates.



## 6. Guides

Guides can be a great way of recommending products and at the same time building a brand for yourself. There are numerous ways in which you can create a guide to help customers understand the features of products and how they can be helpful. For instance, you can create a gift guide that recommends the best products for gifting on different occasions. Or it could be a guide to learning a new activity, linking out to the pages where readers can find the products they will need. You get a much wider opportunity to explain the benefits of a product in a guide than you would in a single page review.

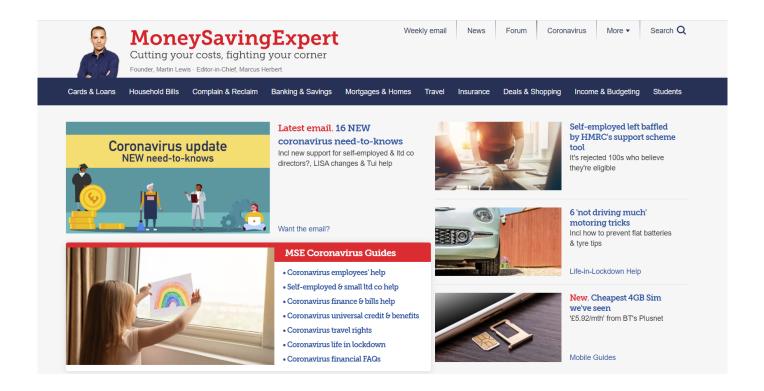
Many affiliate marketers are successful in earning their audiences' trust by writing detailed, comprehensive guides. Longform guides generally get more shares and revisits.

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To create a guide that adds value and builds a brand for you, write about something that no one has written yet. Go through some popular guides in your niche and try to find out gaps in the content or something that hasn't been clearly explained.

For example, in creating a buyer's guide for a product, someone may not have said anything about availability of all the brands mentioned in your target market. So you can create a better guide that is market specific and caters to a very targeted bunch of buyers.





MoneySavingExpert shares some very valuable guides for a targeted audience. As it is a financial education site for people, all its guides are some way or the related to finance and saving. Even their latest guides with coronavirus and lockdown updates help people with savings and financial decisions during these tough times.

Also try and add some real life examples and experiences to make the guide more relatable for the audience. You can also repurpose your guide as a free PDF download and add a call to action in your website to download the free guide. This can also be a great way to encourage visitors to opt-in to your email list to download the guide.



#### 7. eBooks

eBooks, just like guides, can be a very valuable addition to your affiliate content library. These take more time and effort to create.

If you plan on writing an eBook in your niche of affiliate marketing, make sure that you are thorough with the topic you choose. Even if you don't know everything about the topic, conduct as much research as you can and find out everything there is to know. This also includes finding out if there are books already available on the topic and how well they have been selling. This research will help you find out if the topic you chose is too mainstream and how you can make it more interesting. Just remember that you can't get away with half baked content or superficial information in an eBook. When a reader downloads your eBook, he or she would expect indepth information on the topic.

If you are still in the nascent stages of your affiliate business, it is advisable to keep your eBook free to download. It will take some time for people to start trusting your content and until then you can let them download it for free after filling up a short opt-in form.

Promote your eBook on your affiliate website and on social media. You can also give away a few review copies to popular blog owners in your niche and ask them to recommend it.



## 8. Emails

Email marketing has been a long standing marketing tool that most marketers vouch for. In fact emails help you create a more targeted affiliate marketing campaign, as you can <u>create email lists</u> by tracking the behaviour and journeys of individual customers on a site.

Customers who have already shown some interest in a product can be made to revisit the product page or even make a purchase by sending them to a highly personalized follow up email. Your e-books or guides can be a very good way of creating an email list. Let's say if someone has downloaded your eBook on "Learn how to create great video tutorials" – he or she may be interested in getting a good video editing app as well. So you can send customized offers and increase your conversion rate.

Affiliate marketing emails do not necessarily have to be promoting a merchant's products directly. You can also promote your affiliate content through email. And this in turn will promote your affiliate partners. It would also be wise to segment your email list for easier customization. For example if you are promoting children's play area equipment, you could segment your email list into parents and preschool franchisees or individual preschool owners. So, you can promote different content to each group based on their interests.







Hey Mor,

After checking out the Marketing Automation Challenges Report the next logical step is to implement email marketing automation for your company. (If you haven't done it already.

Don't worry, we gathered **everything you have to know** about implementing email marketing and automation in this guide on our blog with over 5000 words!

#### Check Out the Guide!

Founders and marketers have a hard time handling the complexity of most marketing automation tools out there. I know, it's awful.

But, there's an email marketing automation tool that helps you achieve your business goals faster while reducing the struggle you face during the execution of your campaigns. Higher conversion rate, less struggle!

#### Start a FREE TRIAL

I hope we can work together, soon. Reply to this email if you have any questions or feedback.

Let's grow, Mor 🎻

Automizy shares this email template they created to be sent to leads after a first few relation building welcome emails. They have adopted a strategy of gradually taking the customer from one action to the other through email marketing. In this email, they share some useful resources as the primary content but also add a subtle CTA in the end.

But remember, to create an email list you will need to optimize your site with sign up forms with few but crucial fields to be filled. You have to add popups, opt-in forms and widgets that are clearly visible on your site. Add popups at crucial timings, like when a visitor is about to leave the page or when they've spent a considerable amount of time on your page.

Testing your emails' performance is very important too. Use A/B testing to continuously improve your email marketing strategy.



## 9. Listicles

It wouldn't be wrong to say that the internet is ruled by listicles today. Every other article is about "10 best products you should try" or "15 ways to do that". Listicles are a very clear cut format of content.

The real challenge with creating listicles that will drive traffic is choosing a topic that hasn't already been used. Writing a heading that is interesting, fresh and yet, not overdone, is not an easy task either. Also, click bait topics without substance are a big turn off. For instance, "10 things you didn't know about XYZ city" sounds like an interesting piece, but the actual article is mostly things you already knew. Audiences lose trust and never come back to such websites.

Certain lists of "5 best" or "10 best" may be subjective and opinions may vary from person to person. Claiming your entries to be the best in such a case wouldn't be received well by the audience. It is better to create listicles that can be universally accepted as valid information and are backed by facts rather than opinions.







This listicle published by Ebuyer is a good example. There is nothing pretentious about the title of the listicle and the list is based on the viewership and acclaim that these shows have earned. So there is nothing to disagree with. It is both believable and useful for someone looking for recommendations.

It could also be a good idea to publish your listicles before specific seasons or festivals if your niche permits it. Creating a listicle on "10 beautiful Christmas decoration ideas" right before Christmas or "5 best air conditioners in the market" just in time for the summers, can drive more traffic to your article.



# 10. Videos

We have already discussed how video tutorials can give you so much more to work with in your affiliate marketing campaigns. But videos in affiliate marketing are not just limited to tutorials – you can also create video product reviews, product comparisons, quality tests, product unboxing videos, how-to videos, best-of videos and much more.

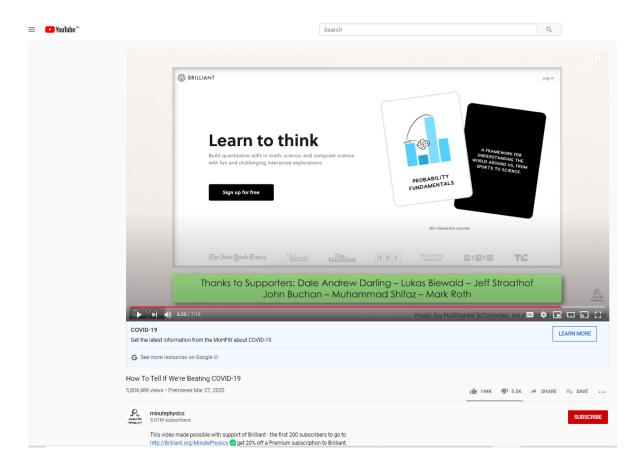
Videos can add a sense of realism to your affiliate promotions. Rather than just reading a review, your audience can actually see a product in use which can be much more engaging.

Not only is it more convenient for the audience to watch a video rather than reading through detailed reviews, it's also easier for you once you get the hang of it. If you already have the right equipment for video recording and know what to do, recording a video can be much quicker than writing a detailed article. Explaining offers and bonuses in speech could also be much easier than explaining them in writing.





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This is an informational video on COVID-19 on the YouTube channel MinutePhysics, which is promoting the Brilliant app. The video mentions the app at the end highlighting its key features, showing how affiliate promotions can be nicely integrated with video content. An affiliate link has also been added in the description below, offering a discount to the first 200 subscribers. A perfect example of what affiliate marketing on YouTube should look like.



## 11. Case Studies

Case studies can be one of the most convincing affiliate marketing content, if done right. A case study is usually a story or a real life account of how someone benefited from using a product you're promoting. You analyze every aspect of this story and present it as a study with your findings and results.

Since it is backed by actual information or data, a case study is a very good source of information for prospective customers. By the end of a case study, the readers should be able to relate with the subject of the study and the product under question, and understand how this product can benefit them. So a well written case study should focus on the customer's journey and not on the brand or the company.

One thing to keep in mind here, though, is that you are writing the case study for customers and not for industry experts. So it is always best to keep it simple and not use any jargon that might make it boring. Keep your study short, relatable and easy to understand. Also, include facts and data to reinforce your study rather than throwing in vague statements, like "the product helped the customer double their productivity". Use the actual numbers instead.



## 12. Seasonal Content

There are many products out there that people seek during special occasions or specific seasons. For example, not many would be looking to buy a superhero costume most of the year, but just before halloween. Or exercise equipment could be in high demand just before January, thanks to those unfulfilled New Year resolutions.



This video guide by Patrick Breen on YouTube for instance, is a great way to promote products right before the holiday season. While giving very targeted gifting ideas to the viewers, he also adds the links to the affiliate products in the description.

Moulding your affiliate content to meet these seasonal trends and publishing them at the right time can work wonders for your affiliate campaign. Mark your calendar to keep track of such occasions when seasonal content could be published. It is also a good time to promote offers and discounts on products as most merchants do have special offers during peak seasons.



# 13. Social Media Content

With nearly 3 billion users worldwide, there cannot be a better place to find a larger audience than on social media. Facebook is definitely the most popular social media network globally, so having a Facebook page for your business can give you a much wider reach than just your website. But another platform that has gained more popularity among marketers in recent times is Instagram. In fact the ad spending on Instagram was 23% higher than on Facebook as of 2018. Reaching your target audience could be much easier with Instagram if you can become an influencer in your niche. Other social channels of interest are Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest.

You can share photos of products or other visuals related to your product and some useful content to attract an audience. It is also important to consistently post new and attention grabbing content on your social media all the time. Remember if you can't build a big following on social media, the returns from these channels will be limited.

If you can't build a big following on social media, the returns from these channels will be limited. Lastly, don't overburden yourself by opening an account in every social media channel and ending up being unable to handle them all.

Choose only those channels where you know that your target audience can be reached. For instance, if you're promoting hiking gear,

LinkedIn wouldn't be the best place for you to network. From time to time, you can also use the relatively less popular networking channels like Quora for promotions. Find a question on Quora that is relevant to your niche and answer them linking back to your affiliate website or product.



# Conclusion

No matter what types of affiliate content you choose to create for your affiliate marketing campaign, adding value to the readers' life should be the central focus. As long as you are providing valuable information and promoting worthy, high quality products, your content will attract leads. Affiliate marketing may not be the wish granting genie that makes you rich overnight, but with a little creativity and clever strategy, it can surely build and sustain a steady revenue in the long run.

