

# EMBARK EDITORIAL AGENCY

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## Embark Q&A

*Embarkers Norman Rusin and Elizabeth Sullivan have been working consistently with one of our nonprofit partners—Science Connected—for some months now and copyedited many articles for its flagship publication, [GotScience.org](http://GotScience.org). As their time with the Agency is soon drawing to a close, I asked them a few questions about their experience.*

**If you have any additional questions for Norman or Elizabeth,  
post them on the Embark Network Facebook page!**

***Q: Why did you volunteer to copyedit for GotScience.org initially?***

**Norman:** I thought it was a good opportunity to apply what I was learning at the UCBX copyediting classes. I also liked the idea of working for a science magazine.

**Elizabeth:** I volunteered because I was intrigued by the concept (science translated for lay people).

***Q: How has working with GotScience.org benefited you as editors?***

**Norman:** I learned a lot from both the magazine's lead-copyeditor (Jess Romaine) and editor-in-chief (Kate Stone). They've given me lots of advice on different aspects of the work. At first, I felt a bit swamped by all the rules I had to enforce (CMoS and the GotScience.org stylesheet), but Jess showed me how to put it all together and make it work.

**Elizabeth:** Working with Jess has been a great help. She is a great mentor. I'm sorry she is leaving. I've learned more from her about editing than I did in the Berkeley program!

***Q: What other professional skills have you learned or developed?***

**Norman:** I learned to pay better attention to details and that nothing is perfect. While working on an article, I found a lapse in the Merriam-Webster unabridged! At first, I had this "wow-it-can't-

be-true!” moment; then I emailed the people at the MW help desk, who thanked me and promised to fix it. That made my day. After I’d received their email, I marked the piece I was working on as ready for the author’s approval.

**Elizabeth:** I think I’ve gotten a better grasp on how to communicate with writers.

**Q: *What have you enjoyed most about the experience?***

**Norman:** Getting involved in the GotScience.org project, seeing it grow, and knowing that I contributed to it has been gratifying.

**Elizabeth:** Working with editing professionals and reading the articles I’ve edited has been really enjoyable.

**Q: *What has been the most challenging thing?***

**Elizabeth:** Meeting Jess’s high expectations is a challenge. I hope I’ve gotten better.

**Q: *Norman, Kate tells me you’re taking on a new role at the GotScience.org magazine. Can you tell us more about that?***

Currently, I’m working as managing editor at GotScience.org. In this role, I supervise the production workflow, from acquisition to publication. Thanks to my experience with this magazine, I’m already familiar with both its content and style and with part of its digital environment. Now I’m learning to handle workflow by working with WordPress and the Google Apps suite. Working as a copyeditor before has taught me to pay attention to details, and I’m experienced now in laying out articles using WordPress.

**Q: *Will you stay involved with the nonprofit after your service with Embark ends?***

**Elizabeth:** I hope so. I really enjoy the experience.

**Norman:** Me too, especially now that I’ve take on this new role, and I’m learning to work with different digital tools.

**Q: *Do you have any other comments or insights about the GotScience.org experience?***

**Norman:** I’d recommend it to all Embarkers because you get to work on texts at different levels of complexity that really test what you’re learning in your copyediting classes.