

Give the people what they want: How influencer marketing is changing

By [Babalwa Nyembezi](#)

29 Aug 2019

For the past nine months, I've been following a friend of mine as she shared her skincare journey on her Instagram page. When she came to me with the idea to start creating longer-form content, I was immediately excited about the idea because I had started trying some of her skincare hacks myself and I'd seen a significant [glo-up](#) in my skin.



Image credit: Thijs Slootjes on Unsplash.

I knew that if I had enjoyed her 15-second Instagram Stories and found her long, long captions valuable, then other girls like me would benefit from this content.



Let's talk influence, not influencer marketing

Pieter Groenewald 28 May 2019



Authenticity speaks to new audiences

The first day she launched her blog she had 1000s of hits from people who had been following her journey on Instagram. The vulnerability and authenticity of her posts made captured the attention of a few thousand people enough to make them want to experience more of the journey with her.

Since then, she's partnered with beauty brands to create campaigns based on her story and journey. She's being paid to co-create content that appeals to girls like her because brands are realising that they need that authenticity to really speak to new audiences.



What Instagram consumers want: less scripted, more snackable, behind-the-scenes content

Leigh Andrews 1 Aug 2019

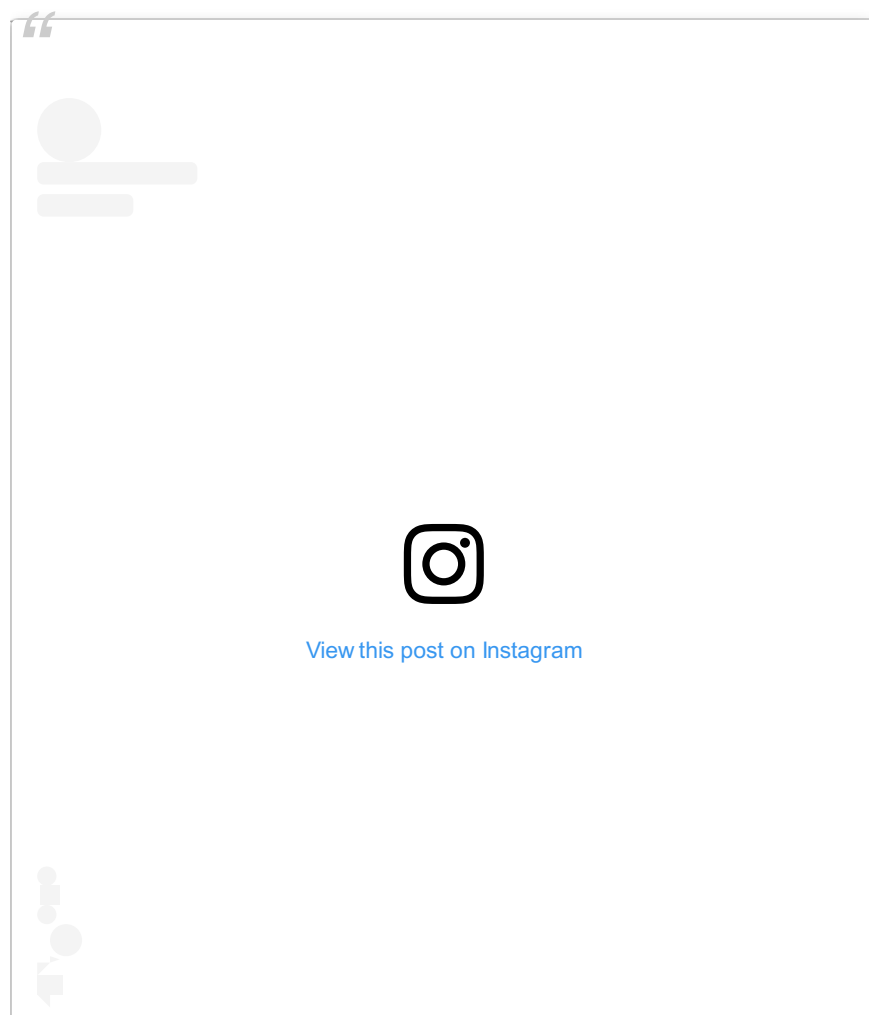


Before Instagram, there was an appetite for long-form content. And people were willing to click out-of-platform to access that long-form content. Instagram changed the game, with its ability to give us beautifully curated content all on one feed. It killed the idea of clicking off-platform.

However, over the last year, the appetite for good long-form content has increased. If it resonates, you're going to engage with it.

In the gap that's been created between mainstream media such as glossy magazines and ordinary people, content creators who are different have risen because they're sharing content that is authentic to them and finding that there is a community that finds resonance in that content.

I heard the other day that there's a new category of influencers that's been defined as "nano" influencers. Why are we creating new categories of influence every season? Brands want to partner with people who are creating content that resonates.



When the offer is 3-for-2 you take 3-for-2! This smol clicks haul includes two products i'm introducing to my skincare: the wash and moisturiser and two masks i want to try, for science, soon. Not pictured are the painkillers to help me cope w my upcoming period. #nomalifromsowetoonbeauty #skincare #acneskincare #adultacne #southafricanbeautyblogger #clicksbeauty #southafricanblogger #blackmillennials #blackgirlswhoblog #affordableskincareblog #morningskincare #blackskincareblogger #africanblogger

A post shared by [Nomali, South African blogger \(@nomalifromsoweto\)](#) on Jul 28, 2019 at 8:58am PDT

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Whether that's connecting with Bonang's 2.9 million followers or Nomali from Soweto's smaller, but equally engaged community of 1,000 Instagram followers.



#FairnessFirst: The power of women in influencer marketing

Leigh Andrews 26 Aug 2019



Sharing authentically

Earlier this year, I realised that pretty pictures with flighty captions and a brand hashtag slapped onto a post aren't enough. Working on a brand positioning re-launch for a banking client, I decided to try a different route and take the road less travelled. I proposed a content strategy that used influencers with relatively small, but engaged communities, across the country.



5 questions to ask when selecting influencers to work with

Dominique Harmse 17 Jul 2019



The results? South Africans across the provinces connected with the message of courage by working with people they respected. Instead of being prescriptive about the content my team and I wanted influencers to post, we asked them to answer a question: When was the last time you had to step out in courage?

The response was 20 uniquely-resonant stories across social that captured the essence of the campaign.

Taking a risk paid off. The big idea included sparking a conversation about courage around the nation when considering influencers for the campaign I also asked the team to look into young people who were experimenting with platforms like YouTube and Soundcloud for podcasts.

In the end, my team and I weren't able to sell the use of those platforms, but the next time I have enough budget I'll make it a point to centre co-creation with creators using "alternative" platforms.



On a scale of Coca-Cola to Pepsi: How to make your brand pop on social media

Babalwa Nyembezi 13 Sep 2017



Influencer marketing rose to fame because brands were looking to gain access to the communities influential people are speaking to. What's started to happen is that people with smaller spheres of influence have high engagement because

they're sharing authentically – their pages aren't dollied up to attract brands.

There's an opportunity for your brand to co-create with a content creator and give people the authentic content they're looking for in their scrolling.

ABOUT BABALWA NYEMBEZI

Babalwa is a Rhodes University-trained journalist turned storyteller who believes that social media has the potential to change the world as we know it. She is an award-winning Social Media Consultant who has worked on brands including Coca-Cola, Vodacom, Uber, Lead SA and currently is the lead Senior Social Consultant for Standard Bank campaigns at VML. Connect and engage with her on Twitter: @babs_nyembezi.

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