Freelance Writer

The contract writer will contribute to the Brennan Center for Justice's strategic audience growth by ghostwriting quick op-eds, newsletter pieces, and other short-form analysis and commentary coming straight out of the news cycle. This person's focus will be voting, elections, and democracy issues going into the 2024 election. The contract writer will brainstorm ideas and write and edit drafts in close collaboration with the president of the Brennan Center and other experts at the organization. The writer will find underreported aspects of Brennan Center issues and bring them to larger audiences, as well as reporting out Brennan Center research in language that lay people find easy to understand.

The writer will typically compose and edit 3-4 news-driven pieces a week and pitch a subset to outside outlets. Other content might include explainers, Q&As, and occasional in-depth reported articles. We're looking for an experienced, versatile writer with a light touch and highly conversational but polished tone. Availability on Tuesday mornings is required; schedule is otherwise flexible during east coast business hours.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Learn about our programmatic research, policy initiatives, and messaging to ghostwrite effectively and pitch op eds to outside outlets.
- Monitor news in our issue areas and work closely with media, editorial, office of the president, and program teams to develop and vet site and external content based on current opportunities.
- Match the tone of both the organization and its president to ensure consistent voice across channels/venues.
- Write and produce clear, concise prose within tight deadlines and with a strong attention to detail and accuracy.
- Be a persuasive and confident writing partner with other departments, able to hold your own regarding your writing expertise while managing relationships with senior leaders.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Relevant online content writing experience is required. Combination of journalism and non-profit experience preferred but not required.
- Experience writing op-eds and covering news for digital channels (email, social, and web) with a deep understanding of how to write for different audiences/platforms.
- Demonstrated ability to increase the audience for your writing and build engagement.
- Track record of generating compelling, error-free prose on fast turnaround.
- Cheerful, calm, and organized even when you get another set of last-minute changes.
- Interest in U.S. democracy, justice, and rule of law issues.

If interested, please reach out to Brian Palmer at palmerb@brennan.law.nyu.edu with (1) a brief cover letter, (2) resume, (3) URLs for 3-4 news pieces that show off your voice, creativity, and explanatory skills, as well as your knowledge of subjects that Brennan Center cares about and (4) contact information for three references. Submissions are due by April 19, 2024.