

Northern Voices Brief #3

Deadline for pitches: 11:59pm on Wednesday 1 September.

The chosen pitch will receive £250 on submission of their final draft.

Please apply through the Google Form [linked here](#).

Summary

We are looking for a thoughtful piece of feature writing which reflects on the idea of *Northern Identity* and how this relates to and intersects with art and music in Manchester. In particular, consider this extract from [‘The Idea of the North: Visual arts in the North of England’](#) report:

“Few places have greater incongruity in the English imagination than ‘The North’. A pendulous landmass, it swings between mythological reverence and dismal disregard, its boundaries and distinctions distorted by the perma-haze of dreary weather.”

Questions to consider might be: Does Northern identity exist? How does one relate to it? Is it about a sense of place, a political concept or something more personal?

Unlike our previous two briefs, this feature is not based around a piece of music or exhibition – it is left open for you to interpret.

You may find it useful to read our [first two Northern Voices features](#).

What is a feature?

A feature is an in-depth piece of writing which gives the reader insight into something they may not be familiar with. Think of our piece as a window for the reader through which they can view your experience. You should plan out the structure of your piece beforehand: think about what you would want to know if you were reading an article.

You may wish to have interviews, or you may wish to keep it very personal. Keep asking yourself questions: why am I telling this story? What is my angle? How do I keep the reader interested and engaged?

You will have your own style of writing, but we would recommend using language that is accessible to all readers.

Next steps

You have until **midnight on Wednesday 1 September** to pitch your idea and if successful, you’ll have three weeks to develop and write your piece. The successful writer will be invited to discuss their idea with our editors and will receive help and guidance throughout the whole process.

A reminder that this is the last commission as part of the Northern Voices series.

