

ARTICLE RATES

PHOTOGRAPHY

[Photo add-ons to web story](#)

[Standalone Art](#)

ILLUSTRATION

ARTICLE RATES

Please submit web posts in Google Docs — and give editors edit access!

Events guides

- Level I: \$200
 - Includes 10-15 events for holiday/special guides, 12+ for weekday/weekend guides
 - Examples: [Things To Do Around D.C. This Week/Weekend](#), [arts agenda](#)
- Level II: \$300
 - Usually used for certain holiday to-do guides that are broken up into categories (food and drink, kids activities, nightlife, etc)
 - Often longer
 - Examples: [Alt-inauguration plans](#), [Valentine's Day Guide](#), [Thanksgiving Guide](#)

Q&A: \$275

Level I story: \$375

- Day turns or short news stories and features that require minimal reporting
- 0-3 sources
- May include one short site visit (i.e. new business opening)
- Examples: [Trayon White expulsion](#), [RFK transfer approved](#), [Nabiha profile](#)

Explainers: \$400

- Requires research and some reporting
- 1-4 sources
- Examples: [No heat explainer](#), [RFK saga](#), [DC Council, explained](#)

Level II story: \$500

- Most one-scene stories will fit here (i.e. a protest or event that requires in-person coverage)

- For non-scene stories, 3-7 sources
- Examples: [cherry blossom prep](#), [D.C. Jail and COVID](#), [museum reopening](#), [BLM protest](#)

Level III: \$800

- Rarely assigned, more complex stories that involve weaving together a narrative with one or more scenes, subjects, expert analysis, and/or researched history. Can uncover something new or add a unique narrative to a story.
- 5+ sources
- Often includes in-person reporting and scene-setting
- Can involve light data analysis or FOIA filing
- Examples: [racing presidents oral history](#), [home for adults with disabilities](#), [hand sanitizer](#), [bakeries during the pandemic](#)

Investigative/enterprise: \$1,000+

- On a case-by-case basis, we also work with freelancers on investigative and enterprise stories that involve extensive research and editing. These stories uncover something new and create news – they’re not features or explainers..
- Examples: [Security camera](#) (data-driven story), [process servers](#) (investigation)

Arts & Eats: \$125 (1) or \$300 (2)

- 3 short blurbs cataloging a week (or more, if events are spaced out) of eating, drinking, arts, or events. Additional rate for photography.

Recurring columns: \$200

- Ask a D.C. Native and any other pitched column fit into this category
- Generally no reporting is necessary

Opinion/Commentary: \$150

- 700 words or less

PHOTOGRAPHY

The 51st publishes high-resolution photos. In almost all cases, we’re looking for horizontal photos. Please provide images in a Google folder or Dropbox folder with a text document of captions for each photo, including names of people, places, and subjects in each.

Photo add-ons to web story

In cases where the writer takes photos during the course of reporting, usually on their phones.

- 1 photo: \$25
- 2 photos: \$50
- 3 photos: \$75

Standalone photography

In cases where a photographer solely shoots images, and does not also provide copy or audio

- Half-day rate: \$200
 - 10+ photos
 - One site visit
 - Ex: [First Looks](#), [gallery previews](#), [The Pledge monument opening](#)
- Day rate: \$400
 - 10+ photos
 - Event or scene photography
 - Or more than one site visit
 - Ex: protest or demonstration shoot, [local Ethiopian community story](#)

ILLUSTRATION

Illustrators will work with an editor and/or writer to discuss direction and themes of art to accompany digital pieces. They are expected to deliver at least one sketch of each piece before final delivery and incorporate feedback. Rates are commensurate with complexity of each piece — editor will discuss rates with illustrator upon assignment.

- Rate: \$500-\$700 per illustration
- Examples: [the other Elliots](#), [restorative justice](#), [process servers](#), [2021 business closures series](#)

Note: It's important for us to equitably pay freelance contributors, which is why our rates are public and accessible. As a reader-funded newsroom with a limited editorial budget, we welcome donations in the form of articles, photographs, and other volunteer labor. This is not expected or required, but if you would like to do so, please notify your assigning editor.

###