

Submissions

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See below for information about submitting essays, poems, and short stories. Please note that all pieces should be publication-ready. Also note that, because I will be compensating for every accepted piece, very few will be accepted (no more than one piece per month). Some pieces may be provisionally accepted, where I will work with you to further develop, refine, and edit your piece prior to final acceptance.

Essays

Essay submissions should be written for generally educated audiences with interests in religion, culture, and society. You should familiarize yourself with the type of content typically published on the site before submitting. Essays can be on any topic, but in the past the site has focused on desire, sexuality, Catholicism, race, creativity, literature, history, theology, virtue ethics, and the clergy abuse crisis. Pieces that are intellectually rich and also involve personal narrative are especially appreciated. (We love literary non-fiction.) No specific tone is required. Humor is very welcome, but sarcasm and polemics are not.

The site usually aims for essays of about 2,000 words. Essays of various lengths will be considered, but should generally be 1,200-8,000 words. See below for submission and payment information.

Poetry

You may submit up to 5 poems at one time. Poems may be any length, but they must not require special formatting. Selected poems will be included in the bi-weekly newsletter.

For each selected poem, you will be invited to write an accompanying “note.” The note should be 800-5,000 words and can explain the poem, discuss the author’s background, reflect on similar poetry, etc. While the poem will be included in the free newsletter, the note will be included as part of the paid content for the site. The note does not have to be included with the original poem submission, and may be written after the poem is accepted. See below for submission and payment information.

Short Stories

Short stories may be submitted but will rarely be accepted. Stories that are funny have a higher chance of acceptance, but I’m happy to consider serious stories as well. Stories should be 1,500-14,000 words. See below for submission and payment information.

Submission and Payment Information

Submissions should be sent to mezzowriters@gmail.com and include a headshot and brief bio. It is recommended that the piece and bio be sent as a Word attachment.

The subject line for the submission should be formatted as follows:

- Submission: [Last name] - [Essay/Poem(s)/Story] - [Title]

Submitting a piece constitutes consent for its publication, in whatever format, timeframe, and location selected by the site. All submissions must be original works created solely by the individual submitting the works. They must be previously unpublished, including on social media platforms or on publicly-available personal websites.

Payment Information

- For essays and short stories: For each accepted essay or short story, you will be compensated \$75.
- Poems: For each accepted note, you will be compensated \$100.
- Other types of submissions: compensation to be agreed upon before acceptance.

Your bio included with the submission may (but is not required to) follow this template:

- [Author name] is a [occupation] living in [location]. His/her/their work has previously appeared in [publications].