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About Us

We are youth writing against history.

“The one duty we owe to history is to rewrite it.” — Oscar Wilde

Writing against history.

If history is written by the victors, then who tells the stories of the defeated, conquered, and colonised? At HISTOYOUTH, we argue that there are no untold or forgotten stories; rather, the history written by victors erases them from memory.

So we write against history and the historical canon. We write the *less*-told tales and the other-side-of-the-coin. We write, not the defeated and the colonised, but the persistent and resistant. We write what can not be forgotten.

Youth.

Practice makes progress, but practice without flexibility can ossify thinking. Our writers are all youth. We are all practicing writing to disentangle *history* from the victor’s narrative. Our youth is our flexibility to challenge, question, indict, and self-correct.

Our Political Ethos.

We are expressly anti-colonial and anti-imperialist, but our writers span the political spectrum. We prioritise humanity over nationality and good argumentation above arbitrary political demarcations.

Join Us.

Join us on the other side of history. Apply here for our writing or social media team. You can express interest to write regularly (staff writer) or occasionally (guest contributor).

If you would like to submit a feature, you may do so [here](#).

Call for Submissions

Introduction

As stated in our mission statement, we are youth writing against history.

We are looking for more young people who have been told stories of another version of history, who can't shake the feeling that what we're taught in school is never the full story, and who know deep down that they have to write about it.

If any of that sounds familiar, consider applying to be one of our writers. If not, and if you're just a curious mind with a love for history, who believes in the right to self-determination and opposes any effort of colonialism, we encourage you to apply as well.

If you want in but you don't have enough time to come onboard as a full time writer, consider submitting a piece you think fits with our mission as a guest contributor. If you have the bandwidth but writing is not your thing; if visuals, speeches, and live interaction is more your speed, we encourage you to apply to be a social media correspondent.

Eligibility

Age: All HISTOYOUTH writers and correspondents (with the exception of guest contributors) must be aged 16 to 25 at the time of their application and for the duration of their contribution.

If you are younger than 16, we encourage you to continue practicing your writing and critical thinking and apply when ready. If you would like feedback on your writing, may reach out to us through [our email](#) with a piece you think fits our mission and we will do our best to get back to you with our thoughts or let you know if we are unable to.

If you are older than 25, we encourage you to reach out to us via email expressing your interest and rationale for joining HISTOYOUTH. Admission is at the discretion of the editor team.

Experience: While most of our writers are current students, no educational or professional experience is required. We're looking for ideas, not qualifications.

Responsibilities

Writers: Writers are expected to maintain timely and open communication with the editing team throughout the writing, editing, and publication process. While the editors will do their best to fact check all work, any errors or omissions are ultimately the writer's responsibility.

Full Time Writers: Full time writers are expected to attend an initial synchronous writers briefing on research, style, ethical writing. All writers must submit one piece

of work every calendar month. These may be Dispatches, Opinions, or Excavations, and the date of submission each month is flexible.

Social Media Creator: Social Media Creators are expected to create engaging and informative content, be it posts, reels, or story updates for the HISTOYOUTH instagram. Creators are expected to contribute one post or reel every week, on average, which can be submitted all at once each calendar month. Creating content by nature is more collaborative than writing, so creators are asked to find monthly availability for a synchronous meeting with the editor team and all other creators to plan and schedule for the next month.

Footnotes

50-100 words. Brief note, remark, argument, or other. These can be date specific, preferably topical, and serve as ‘reminders’ about a person, place, event, or idea in history. These may span from academic to personal.

Op-Eds

600-1200 words. An argumentation piece on *one* topic, directed to a clear audience. Op-Eds are usually on the personal end of the writing spectrum, but that does not exempt these from strong evidence and argumentation. All opinion pieces should take into consideration opposing or dissenting perspectives and evidence. These pieces require exigence (why should we revisit this part of history in our current time?) and should also conclude with a call to action (what do we do after this revisit?).

Dispatches

600-1200 words. An informational piece on any person, place, event, idea, or theme in history. These are intended to be more reflective of reports (hence, ‘dispatch’); imagine writing a colleague or friend about your discoveries during an archeological dig. These can span from academic to personal, but they require far more balance in different viewpoints and a greater reliance on factual information than an opinion piece.

Excavations

1200-5000 words. A deep dive into any person, place, event, idea, or theme in history. These are intended to be comprehensive analyses, and thus preferably lean more academic than personal. These can be argumentative or informational, but both require a balance in perspectives or the careful consideration of counterarguments; think: writing your thesis after the archeological dig or constructing a thorough diagnosis followed by an argumentative prescription.

Podcasts

Coming soon.

Staff Writer Application

Instructions

1. You must outline, draft, and revise your responses to all questions on ONE Google Document. Please allow anyone with the link to **comment on the document**. We will check draftback history to ensure that this is indeed your own work.
2. **Do not use AI to write your response.** This will be the first thing we check for. Not to mention, given the complexity of the questions, AI will only hurt the quality of your piece.
3. In text citations are not necessary, but if you reference external sources, please add a **references section** which will not be counted towards your total word count. It should be formatted in **Chicago Author-Date** style, depending on your primary area of discussion.
4. Optionally, you may attach **up to 2 previously written pieces** to supplement your application. Please include this in a **separate tab** titled “Supplemental Pieces.”
5. Please copy and paste the URL of your Google Document into the application form on the Join Us page on our website.
6. Lastly, we want to be wowed. So wow us.

Question 1: Briefly discuss your previous experience writing and analyzing history. If you don’t have any formal experience, tell us about what history means to you. How has your perspective on how we perceive the past changed over time? **(250 words MAX)**

Question 2: Tell us why you are interested in joining the HISTOYOUTH team. Compared to the previous question, your responses to this question should be more action-oriented. What do you hope to accomplish? What stories do you think need to be told and heard? **(250 words MAX)**

Question 3: Lastly, write a thoughtful, insightful and well composed response to one of the following prompts. **(650 words MAX)**

- A. It is often said that “history is written by the victors,” but former HISTOYOUTH writer Hasan Belgaumi argues that history is actually *rewritten* by the victors. Discuss an instance when a ‘defeated’ people have fought to reclaim a new version of their history after the victors overwrote it. To what extent were they successful and why so? How does the difference between the reclaimed version and the overwritten version change how we perceive the event and the people involved today?
- B. People who support Israel’s siege on Gaza emphasize the brutality of the October 7th Hamas attack as a provocation that justifies the military operation; rarely, if ever, do proponents acknowledge the violence Palestinians faced on October 6th, on October 5th, and on all the days in the hundred years of war that preceded Hamas’ attack. So when do we start counting? At what point does history start? Responses do not have to reference the question of Palestine, but they must provide a clear, ideally nuanced framework that can be applied to a range of historical and current event contexts.

Guest Contributor Submission Guidelines

Eligibility

While we prioritize young voices in our writing, guest contributors can be of any age.

Submission Materials

All authors must identify themselves in some form. This can be with a full name, first name, surname or initials. Writers must also provide a form of social media presence. This may include Instagram, Facebook, or LinkedIn. This information is solely so we may verify your identity and will not be published with the work unless requested by the submitter. Lastly, all authors must also provide a short bio of 50-100 words describing their experience and goals in writing history.

Plagiarism and AI Policy

All submissions will be checked for plagiarism, including any use of Artificial Intelligence. As with our expectations and requirements outlined in our AI Use Policy, we can't prohibit the use of AI, but we can guarantee it won't help your case. We reserve the right to reject a submission if we suspect plagiarism.

Submission Process

All pieces submitted to HISTOYOUTH will be submitted to a category. We ask that guest contributors who would like to submit footnotes to submit three at a time. Please submit writing that has not been published elsewhere, except in an educational setting. All sources must be cited in Chicago, author-date format, including images.

After submission, we will read your piece and let you know whether or not we think it is suitable for publication under HISTOYOUTH; by suitable, we mean that all pieces must agree with the anticolonial spirit of our mission statement and be well researched with strong argumentation. The HISTOYOUTH team reserves the right to reject submissions based on our discretion. Feedback and rationale will be given to rejected submitters upon request.

By submitting your work you agree that the HISTOYOUTH team reserves the right to edit and revise your work. The submitter is not required to accept all feedback and suggestions, and the final draft will be published only after the submitter approves. We want to honor your personal voice and your perspective, but we can not compromise when it comes to reliable evidence or support for the principle of self determination. Submitters may withdraw their publication request at any point in time, even after publication.

AI Use Policy

We highly discourage the use of AI in any stage of the writing process, including brainstorming.

We know we can't stop you from using AI, but let us put it this way: Large Language Models run by synthesizing copious amounts of data and use statistical analysis to predict the best response (to oversimplify it).

HISTOYOUTH is dedicated to highlighting stories of anticolonial struggle that most have never heard of; do you think a statistical model that *emphasizes existing disparities and prejudices* can do a better job than you consulting your history?