

# Democracy Notes Perspectives

## Contributor Guidelines

### Who are you writing for?

Our readers work on US democracy at foundations, nonprofits, and universities. They may be program officers, policy experts, lawyers, journalists, researchers, communications professionals, or fundraisers. They work in many fields—electoral reform, local news, organizing, pluralism, civics education, litigation, and more.

There are many (other) outlets that accept pieces about US democracy for a broader audience. When writing for *Democracy Notes Perspectives*, you're writing for folks who are deeply informed about the state of our democracy, though perhaps not in your particular area of expertise.

(Our audience is probably more interested in your nonprofit's innovative fundraising approach than Trump's latest hoopla—we've all already read about that!)

### What are we looking for?

We're looking for writing that informs, provokes, or entertains our audience. We want your authentic voice, grounded in concrete experience and clear, accessible language.

Right now, we're particularly interested in writing on three topics:

- **We did a thing!** Are you really good at grassroots fundraising? Did you run a comms campaign that you're particularly proud of? Tell us *how* you did it. Help the field learn!
- **Something's not working.** How is the democracy space (or some piece of it) getting in its own way? What needs to change?
- **What I wish I had known.** What do you wish you had known when you first got into this work? Teach us!

We're also always curious about:

- The infrastructure that our field is missing. What would help you do your job better? (Think: training programs, collaborative spaces, etc.)
- How your theory of change is changing in the Trump 2.0 era.

Not everything is an op-ed! We'd love to read your satire, your fiction, your first-person narrative. We're also open to other formats like interviews or series of articles.

## Is there a style guide?

We use an adapted form of [Chicago style](#).

We also like to keep things casual. Feel free to write how you'd text a friend. Keep it light, keep it fun(ny), and express your personality! The vibe we're going for is more *Teen Vogue* than *New York Times* op-ed. Don't be boring!

## How long should my piece be?

Your submission should be 300-400 words. We occasionally accept longer pieces on a case-by-case basis.

Why so short? We believe three things:

- Most of our readers are very busy;
- Attention is a scarce resource. Most people don't "lock in" to read lots of long paragraphs; and
- "Most books should be essays, most essays should be op-eds, most op-eds should be tweets, and most tweets shouldn't be sent."

## How do I submit?

1. Submit your piece via [this Google form](#).
2. Once submitted, our team will review your work within one week.
  - If you don't hear back from us within two weeks, please feel free to submit your piece elsewhere.
3. Expect two to three rounds of edits before publication.

Please note: the choice to publish a piece or not is at the sole discretion of *Democracy Notes Perspectives*. We can't publish every piece that is submitted and regularly reject proposed submissions.

## Plagiarism and republishing

Please note that we will reject any work found to be plagiarized. We are willing to publish work that has appeared elsewhere only if we have full permissions.