

Illustoria Youth Writing FAQs

1. What is *Illustoria*?

Illustoria is a tri-annual print magazine for creative kids published by McSweeney's. Our magazine is filled with games, jokes, stories, projects, interviews, and more. We are the official publication of the International Alliance of Youth Writing Centers, and we publish short stories and poems by school-aged contributors from 66 writing centers worldwide.

2. Why should my students participate?

Chosen author's work will be published in the print magazine with an illustration made by a professional artist. *Illustoria* has over 3,000 subscribers, and is carried by hundreds of bookstores and libraries across the country (and world)!

3. In what format should writing be submitted?

Please email Claire Astrow (claire@illustoria.com) your submissions as a Google or Word doc, NOT as a pdf. Please include the student's full name, age, and title of their work.

4. What is the process for having short stories and poems by young writers published in *Illustoria*?

- a. Three times a year, we reach out to all writing centers to notify them about our latest short story and poem prompts.
- b. We review all submissions and select our favorites. We then reach out to those who have been selected and rejected.
- c. If your student's work is chosen, we will send you a [consent form](#) which must be filled out and returned. Sometimes, edits are needed which we communicate to the author. Finalists will have their work published in the print magazine, alongside a corresponding illustration made by a professional artist.
- d. Once the issue is published, the young writer and writing center receives a complimentary copy.

5. What length should pieces be?

Poems can be 150 words max, and short fiction we ask for 300-600 words max.

6. What are examples of past published work?

Examples of past published work can be found [here](#).

7. What student age is acceptable?

We accept writing from authors ages 6 through 18.

8. Would opinion or journalism pieces fit?

We don't currently accept opinion or journalism pieces, but it's possible that we would be interested in the future.

9. What does the magazine's audience look like in demographics and numbers?

Our audience includes readers 6 - 12 and up, as well as adults interested in children's lit, illustration and DIY projects. If you'd like to sell *Illustoria* at your writing center (with a 10% discount!), please contact claire@illustoria.com! You can also be in touch if you'd just like a physical copy to flip through.