

Contrary Submission Guidelines

Rights – Upon acceptance, Contrary acquires: 1. exclusive rights for three months from the date of publication, 2. the right to permanent inclusion of the work in Contrary’s electronic archive, and 3. the right to reproduce the work in print and electronic collections of our content. After exclusive rights expire, the author is free to seek republication elsewhere, but Contrary must be credited.

Payment – For original commentary, fiction, and poetry, Contrary pays \$20 per author per issue, regardless of the number of works or nature of the submission. Domestic payments are made by check or Paypal. International payments will only be sent through Paypal.

Simultaneous submissions – We accept simultaneous submissions, but we ask that you inform us when submissions are simultaneous, and you must alert us immediately if the work is accepted elsewhere. **A submission constitutes an agreement to publish in Contrary under the guidelines on this page.**

Our deadline, response, and publication cycle – Contrary receives submissions throughout the year and publishes four issues per year, with the change of seasons. In Spring our deadline is March 1, and the issue appears with the vernal equinox on or about March 21. Following that cycle, our deadline for Summer is June 1, Autumn is Sept. 1, Winter is Dec. 1. We will report on your submission after the next solstice or equinox.

Mailing List — When you submit your work you will be automatically subscribed to the mailing list we use to communicate with our contributors. We use it to call for submissions no more than four times each year. You may unsubscribe at any time.

FICTION

(pdf, doc, docx, txt, rtf)

We ask our fiction writers to imagine their readers navigating a story with one finger poised over a mouse button. Can your story stay that finger to the end? We have published long stories on the belief that they succeed, but we feel more comfortable with 1,500 words or less. Some people call those short-shorts. We call them concise. We favor fiction that is contrary in any number of ways, but our fiction typically defies traditional story form. A story may bring us to closure, for example, without ever delivering an ending. We seek fiction as poetic as any poem.

Please include the word count in your cover letter!

Our fiction editor is Frances Badgett.

POETRY

(pdf, doc, docx, txt, rtf)

3 poems word limit

We believe poetry is contrary by nature, always defying, always tonguing the tang of novelty. We look especially for plurality of meaning, for dual reverberation of beauty and concern. Contrary’s poetry in

particular often mimics the effects of fiction or commentary. We find ourselves enamored of prose poems because they are naturally contrary toward form – they tug on the forces of exposition or narrative – but prose poems remain the minority of all the poetic forms we publish.

Please consider that Contrary receives vast amounts of poetry and that we can publish only a small percentage of that work. Please submit no more than three poems per issue.

Our poetry editor is Shaindel Beers.

COMMENTARY

(pdf, doc, docx, txt, rtf)

We favor lyrical commentary, often narrative, always poetic. We seek commentary that delivers a message less through exposition and more through art. Our view of the genre is broad. “Commentary” is our word for the stuff that others define negatively as non-fiction, nominally as essay, or naively as truth. Examples you can find in our own pages include “Plum Island” by Andrew Coburn, “Ascension” by Kevin Heath, and “A Spring Sunday” by Heywood Broun.

Please include the word count in your cover letter!

Our commentary editor is Jeff McMahon.

OTHER

(pdf, doc, docx, txt, rtf, jpg, gif, mp3, mp4, m4a, tiff)

750-word book review word limit

You may submit any work here that refuses to conform to the categories above, including hybrid forms, artwork, and reviews. If submitting hybrid forms, you might consult the relevant categories above for tips on our preferences.

Reviews - Contrary has a stable of regular reviewers, but we welcome new recruits when we can. Please note that payment is not guaranteed for reviews; in the past we have paid our reviewers annually when fundraising exceeded our obligations. The maximum word count for reviews is 750. If you would like to review for us, please review our Rules for Reviewers first at:

<http://www.contrarymagazine.com/Contrary/Submissions.html>