

Submission Guidelines

Voices from the Plains: Volume VI

Entry Fee: NONE!!

Entry Requirements:

- Current **paid** membership or Life Member status in NWG. *Membership status will be confirmed before entries will be accepted.*
- Completed online submission form, which includes uploading entry files.

Entries Defined:

Each of the following constitutes a single entry:

- One essay, memoir, or other nonfiction piece of up to 5000 words
- One short story or novel excerpt of up to 5000 words
- One flash fiction story of up to 1000 words
- One poem of any length

NOTE: Each entry should be submitted as an individual file. ***Please do not combine multiple entries into a single file.***

Number of Entries Allowed:

- You may submit a **maximum of six entries** in any combination of styles but not to exceed the maximums listed below. (For example, out of six possible entries, only three of them can be short stories, novel excerpts, and/or nonfiction pieces.)
- **Nonfiction, Short Stories, Novel Excerpts:** up to THREE entries in any combination of these styles
- **Flash Fiction Stories:** up to SIX entries
- **Poems:** up to SIX entries

Simultaneous Submissions:

- Simultaneous submissions are accepted.
- Please let us know that an entry has also been submitted elsewhere.
- If an entry is accepted by another publication, you must withdraw it from the anthology immediately.

Republications:

If you are submitting an entry that has been previously published, please include the appropriate republication language at the end of your entry. Below are some suggestions:

Originally published in [name of publication], [issue number], [year], [page number].

Originally published online by [name of website/blog].

Reprinted with permission by [name of previous publisher].

If the republication language would reveal your identity: Add the repub language in the Notes section of the entry form instead or email the info to voicesfromtheplains@gmail.com.

NOTE: Republications must be submitted with a letter from the original publisher giving permission for reprint, or you should provide proof that you retain or have regained publishing rights. Please email this information to us at voicesfromtheplains@gmail.com.

Appropriate Content:

All genres are accepted. However, the goal of this anthology is to be accessible to a wide audience, and that means some limitations must apply. Mature content and questionable language should be appropriate and not excessive or gratuitous in nature. We are not likely to accept explicit content. ***Content which supports or attempts to spread racism or other intolerance will not be accepted.*** The NWG reserves the right to reject any entries based on content* if the content is deemed inappropriate for our audience or marginalizes, whether intentional or not, any groups of people.

Formatting:

Do not include the author's name anywhere in your files. Any entries including the author's name will be disqualified. No, I won't fix them for you. I'm not your mother. Check your files before you submit!

We do not have any particular requirements regarding font, size, or line spacing. However, most publications require 12pt Times New Roman, 1.5 line spacing, so it's not a bad idea to get into the habit of saving your files with these settings.

Also note the following:

- **Preferred File Formats:** .docx, Google Docs
- **Other Accepted File Formats:** .pdf, .pages, .rtf, .doc
- **Poetry:**
 - Lines of poetry longer than 4-1/4" will wrap around to a second line.
 - Use *only one* blank line between stanzas (even if that causes a stanza to break across two pages).
- **Fiction/Nonfiction:**
 - Do not add extra returns between paragraphs.
 - Do not use tabs or spaces to indent paragraphs (set a first-line indent instead).
 - If you need a visual break between sections, please add a line of asterisks (* * *) or some other symbol so the break is easy to distinguish and understand.
- **General Formatting:**
 - Titles should use initial caps only, not all caps.

* We aren't saying that this content can't ever be published. We're simply saying that it's not appropriate for *our* publication, which we are within our rights to determine. Therefore, this policy does not constitute censorship.

- Do not add extra built-in space above or below paragraphs (“space above”/ “space below”).
- Use *only one space* after periods and colons. (This is publishing industry standard and is a good habit to get into when writing for publication.)
- No illustrations, images, or emoticons please.
- **File Names:** Each file should be named with the title of the piece only.

Author Bio:

You must add an author bio on your entry form. A few key things to note about writing a bio:

- We have a 50-word limit.
- Bios are generally written in third person.
- A bio can list your professional accomplishments, describe your hobbies, mention your family and where you live, or simply make random, perhaps silly, comments about you.
- Sample Bio (48 words):

John Doe is a lawyer with a heart (who knew?!) who loves to write poetry on the weekends. John has been published in several anthologies, including the *Whatseewhosit Anthology* and *Anthology of Something or Other*. John lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife and three kids, er, dogs.

Editing:

- *Entries will not be edited*, so check your entries carefully before sending.
- Accepted entries will be proofread and suggested changes will be sent to the author. If the author does not respond by the date given, *all suggested changes will be made*.
- Punctuation and other style considerations will follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition. Spelling will follow the *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*.
- While the accepted entries will be proofread, the NWG is not responsible for any errors occurring in the original file that happen to get printed.

NOTES:

- Entries can only be withdrawn in the case of simultaneous submissions (see above).
- No revisions (except proofreading changes) will be allowed after an entry is received.
- *Evaluators may disqualify any work for violating any and all requirements listed above.*

Submission Dates: July 10–August 26, 2023

Anticipated Publication Date: December 1, 2023

Questions: voicesfromtheplains@gmail.com

If you have any questions about the guidelines, please ask before you submit!

We love answering questions!! Thanks!