

Submission Guidelines

Voices from the Plains: Volume IV

NEW RULE! → Entry Fee: NONE!!

Entry Requirements:

- Current **paid** membership or Life Member status in NWG. *Membership is required to access the registration form. If you are not a current member or you've let your membership lapse, you will need to join or renew before you can register.*
- Completed online registration form. **NOTE:** *You can fill out the registration form ONLY ONCE, so get all your ducks in a row before you fill it out.*
- Entries following all guidelines emailed to voicesfromtheplains@gmail.com. (Entries should be sent *as individual files*; please do not combine multiple entries into one file.)

NEW RULE! →

NEW RULE! → 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

NEW RULE! → 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.

NEW RULE! → **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].

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.

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.***

Formatting:

Do not include the author's name anywhere in or on your files (except your bio—see below).

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!

NEW RULE! → *There are no other disqualifying formatting rules, but please see below.*

- **Acceptable File Formats:** .doc, .docx, .pdf, .pages, .rtf
- All entries must be sent as email *attachments*—do not include entries in the body of the email.
- **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.
- 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.
 - *Do not include the author’s name in the file name.*

Author Bio:

Attach your bio *in a separate file*.

- No more than 50 words.
- Include your name in your bio’s file name (evaluators do not see the bios). For example, “Julie Haase Bio” is a great bio name (only, you know, use your own name please).
- If multiple entries are sent in separate emails, include the bio with each email.
- If you were published in *Voices from the Plains, Volume III* and you want to use your bio from that volume, please note that in your submission email.

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.*

Email Entries to: voicesfromtheplains@gmail.com

Submission Dates: July 13-August 29, 2020

Anticipated Publication Date: December 1, 2020

Questions: voicesfromtheplains@gmail.com

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