

Where to Submit Each Course Essay

Under One Roof — a venue chart for every essay we write, with what to change for each venue, editors, how to submit, and sample letters

James Mulhern · Silver Current Press · Taught in person at 2601 Pennsylvania Avenue, Philadelphia

Contents

How to Use This Chart

Before You Adapt Anything

Essay 1: The Place Essay — “One Room in This Building”

Essay 2: The Personal Essay — “What I Brought, What I Left”

Essay 3: The Memoir Scene — from “Memory’s Floor Plan”

Essay 4: The Flash or Lyric Essay — from “The Elevator”

Essay 5: The Profile — “Across the Hall”

Essay 6: The Oral History — “Voices of 2601”

Essay 7: The Braided Essay — “The Building’s Biography”

Essay 8: The Arts Essay — “Across the Parkway”

Essay 9: The Hermit Crab Essay — “Notices on the Bulletin Board”

Essay 10: The Building Biography — “One Day in One Year” (from “Other Roofs”)

How to Submit to Each Venue

Form Letters for Every Situation

How to Use This Chart

Every assignment in Under One Roof can become a published essay — but almost never exactly as written for class. Class essays are written to a length and a prompt; magazines have their own lengths, subjects, reading periods, and rules. This guide

takes each essay from the course and lists at least five venues where it could be submitted, what you would need to cut, extend, or reshape for each one, who the editor is (where the venue names one), and how to send it. A sample letter follows each essay.

All details were checked on each venue's own guidelines page on September 27, 2026.

*Guidelines, editors, and reading periods change: always read the venue's live page before you submit. Full step-by-step instructions are in the companion guide, *Sending It Out*.*

Before You Adapt Anything

Finish the essay first. Revise the class version fully (the whole, the scene, the sentence) before tailoring it. Then save a separate copy for each venue — for example, Mailroom_Brevity.docx and Mailroom_HomeForum.docx.

Count the words. Length is the most common reason for rejection. Stay comfortably inside every limit.

Read two published pieces. Before adapting for a venue, read two essays it has published. Match its tone, not just its word count.

Consent travels with the essay. Any living neighbor named or recognizable must have read the adapted version and signed the consent form before you submit.

Keep it unpublished. Do not post the essay on a blog or social media; many venues treat that as prior publication.

Your own words. Many venues forbid AI-generated or AI-assisted writing. Write and revise every version yourself.

One acceptance ends the search. If one venue says yes, withdraw every other version of that essay the same day, even adapted ones.

Essay 1: The Place Essay — “One Room in This Building”

As assigned in class: 500–750 words; a room at 2601 or a room from another life; a feeling carried by the place, never named directly.

Where it fits best: Short, sensory, and quiet. Its best homes are short-form venues and warm, personal columns.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Brevity	750 words or fewer. September–April. Fee: \$3.	Cut to 750 words or fewer — ideally 600–700 — so every sentence earns its place. Sharpen the turn in the last third. Reformat single-spaced, no indents, one blank line between paragraphs.
Hippocampus Magazine	Essays up to 4,000 words; flash up to 800. Essays: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30. Flash: Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay).	Submit to the flash category (800 words or fewer). Strengthen the scene at the center of the room. Remove your name from the manuscript and the file name; Hippocampus reads blind.
The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum	600–1,000 words. Year-round; time-sensitive pieces at least six weeks ahead. Fee: None.	Extend to at least 600 words and keep it upbeat: the Home Forum avoids death, aging, medicine, and disease. If your room carries grief, choose another venue. Paste the text into the email.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
The Sun — Readers Write	No set limit; most published pieces run about 300–1,000 words. Topic deadlines posted on the site; upcoming topics listed Sept. 27, 2026: “Roots” (due Oct. 1) and “Teamwork” (due Nov. 1). Fee: None.	Reframe the essay around a posted topic. For “Roots” (due Oct. 1) the room might hold where you came from; for “Teamwork” (due Nov. 1), the people who made the room a home. Name the topic on page one.
Philadelphia Stories	Up to 2,500 words. Seasonal windows (Summer/Fall 2026 ran June 1–Sept. 1, 2026); check for the next window. Fee: None.	Expand to 1,200–2,000 words by adding the Philadelphia around the room: the street, the Parkway, the building’s history. The magazine welcomes positive Philadelphia experiences. Watch for the next reading window.
Under the Gum Tree	Departments up to 2,000 words; flash under 750; features longer. Ongoing. Fee: A nominal fee (includes a digital issue).	Trim to under 750 words for the flash department, or expand toward 2,000 for a themed department. Your own blog posts are acceptable here, but remove all identifying information from the manuscript.

Editors and How to Submit

Brevity

Editor: Zoë Bossiere, Editor (masthead). Salutation: “Dear Ms. Bossiere” or “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable. Format single-spaced, no indentation, a blank line between paragraphs.

Pay: \$45 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://brevitymag.com/submissions/>

Hippocampus Magazine

Editor: Steph Auteri, Essays Editor; Wendy Fontaine, Flash Editor; Donna Talarico, Founder and Publisher (masthead).

How: Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name.

Pay: \$40 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum

Editor: Poets & Writers lists Husna Haq as Home Forum editor. Salutation: “Dear Home Forum Editor.”

How: Email homeforum@csmonitor.com with “Submission” in the subject line; paste the text into the email or share a Google Doc. Include contact information and word count.

Pay: \$400 per essay, on publication.

Guidelines: <https://www.csmonitor.com/About/Contributor-guidelines/Contributor-Guidelines-The-Home-Forum>

The Sun — Readers Write

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable, or typed/handwritten manuscript by mail. No email. Put your name and the topic on page 1.

Pay: A complimentary one-year subscription.

Guidelines: <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/submit/readers-write>

Philadelphia Stories

Editor: Jenny Burkholder, Nonfiction Editor (masthead).

How: Online Submission Form for the Nonfiction Editor; include a third-person bio of about 75 words stating your Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey connection.

Pay: \$50 honorarium for print publication.

Guidelines: <https://philadelphiastories.org/submission-guidelines/>

Under the Gum Tree

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Online (digital only); no identifying information on the manuscript.

Pay: Contributor copies.

Guidelines: <https://underthegumtree.com/submit/>

Sample cover letter — Brevity (Submittable)

Dear Ms. Bossiere,

Please consider my flash essay “The Mailroom at Four O’Clock” (690 words). It is a simultaneous submission; I will withdraw it immediately if it is accepted elsewhere.

[Your name] lives in Philadelphia, where she writes about home and the small rituals of apartment life.

Thank you for reading.

[Your name]

Essay 2: The Personal Essay — “What I Brought, What I Left”

As assigned in class: 750–1,000 words; begins with a single object; digresses and turns.

Where it fits best: A strong, flexible essay. It can go short and warm or long and searching.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
The Sun — Essays	No formal limit; rarely over 7,000 words. Rolling. Fee: \$2.50 online; free by mail.	Expand to 2,000–4,000 words. The Sun wants essays “too personal for any other journal,” so go deeper into what the object meant and what leaving cost. Submit online (\$2.50) or free by mail.
Chicken Soup for the Soul	Recommended maximum 1,200 words; no minimum. Book-by-book deadlines on the Possible Book Topics page (for example, a book of funny stories with a deadline extended to Oct. 15, 2026). Fee: None.	Keep to 1,200 words or fewer, first person, with a clear beginning, middle, and end and an uplifting turn. Match it to a book on the Possible Book Topics page (moving, family, or second chances often appear). Your own words only; no AI assistance.
The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum	600–1,000 words. Year-round; time-sensitive pieces at least six weeks ahead. Fee: None.	Keep within 600–1,000 words and emphasize discovery and gentle humor over loss. Do not send it anywhere else for four weeks.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Hippocampus Magazine	Essays up to 4,000 words; flash up to 800. Essays: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30. Flash: Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay).	Expand to 1,500–3,000 words for the essay category (open Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30). Add a second scene and let the digressions do more thinking. Remove your name from the file.
Under the Gum Tree	Departments up to 2,000 words; flash under 750; features longer. Ongoing. Fee: A nominal fee (includes a digital issue).	Fits a themed department (family, home) at up to 2,000 words. Add one more layer of vulnerability; the editors ask for “authentic vulnerability.”
Narratively — The Personals	Ideally 1,000–1,500 words; never over 2,200. Rolling. Fee: Not stated.	Rebuild around one moment — the day you packed the box — as a scene-driven story of 1,000–1,500 words. Send one piece at a time.

Editors and How to Submit

The Sun — Essays

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable, or by mail.

Pay: \$200 and up.

Guidelines: <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/submit/essays-fiction-poetry>

Chicken Soup for the Soul

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Online form at chickensoup.com; choose the book topic.

Pay: \$250 one month after the book’s publication, plus ten copies.

Guidelines: <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines/>

The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum

Editor: Poets & Writers lists Husna Haq as Home Forum editor. Salutation: “Dear Home Forum Editor.”

How: Email homeforum@csmonitor.com with “Submission” in the subject line; paste the text into the email or share a Google Doc. Include contact information and word count.

Pay: \$400 per essay, on publication.

Guidelines: <https://www.csmonitor.com/About/Contributor-guidelines/Contributor-Guidelines-The-Home-Forum>

Hippocampus Magazine

Editor: Steph Auteri, Essays Editor; Wendy Fontaine, Flash Editor; Donna Talarico, Founder and Publisher (masthead).

How: Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name.

Pay: \$40 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

Under the Gum Tree

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Online (digital only); no identifying information on the manuscript.

Pay: Contributor copies.

Guidelines: <https://underthegumtree.com/submit/>

Narratively — The Personals

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable.

Pay: \$300.

Guidelines: <https://narratively.submittable.com/submit/321516/submissions-the-personals>

Sample cover letter — Chicken Soup for the Soul (online form)

Dear Editors,

Please consider my true story “The Last Box” (1,050 words) for your book on [topic from the Possible Book Topics page].

[Your name] is a retired [profession] who lives in Philadelphia.

Thank you for your consideration.

[Your name]

Essay 3: The Memoir Scene — from “Memory’s Floor Plan”

As assigned in class: 750–1,000 words; one scene from a remembered home; the double voice of the self who lived it and the self who remembers.

Where it fits best: A scene is a beginning. Most venues want a complete essay, so this piece usually needs a frame, a second scene, or a reflective close.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Narratively — The Personals	Ideally 1,000–1,500 words; never over 2,200. Rolling. Fee: Not stated.	Expand to 1,000–1,500 words (never over 2,200). Keep the scene at the center and add what came just before and just after. The editors want “one moment, one day, one week, one summer.”
Passager	Up to 4,000 words of prose. Annual window July 15–Sept. 15 (the 2026 window closed Sept. 15, 2026, or at 400 submissions); watch for the next call. Fee: \$5 on Submittable; free by mail.	If you are 50 or older: expand to a complete memoir piece of up to 4,000 words with a reflective frame from the present. The window is July 15–Sept. 15 each year (the 2026 window has closed), so prepare it now for next summer. Put your name on every page.
Persimmon Tree	Under 3,500 words; Short Takes 250–500 words on a posted theme. Nonfiction any time; Short Takes in brief announced windows. Fee: None.	If you are a woman over sixty: shape a complete essay under 3,500 words, letting the older voice speak more fully. You must be a free subscriber. Email as an attachment to editor@persimmontree.org .

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Hippocampus Magazine	Essays up to 4,000 words; flash up to 800. Essays: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30. Flash: Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay).	Either trim to 800 words for flash (a single, perfect scene) or expand to 2,000–4,000 words for an essay with a clear arc.
Pithead Chapel	Up to 4,000 words. Rolling, capped at 300 submissions a month. Fee: Not stated.	Expand to a complete essay of up to 4,000 words; lyric or segmented structures welcome. Name and contact on page one, double-spaced.
Modern Love (The New York Times)	1,500–1,700 words. September–December and March–June only. Fee: None.	Only if the scene is about a relationship. Expand to 1,500–1,700 words, entirely true: no changed names, composites, or invented scenes. Submit only September–December or March–June.

Editors and How to Submit

Narratively — The Personals

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable.

Pay: \$300.

Guidelines: <https://narratively.submittable.com/submit/321516/submissions-the-personals>

Passager

Editor: Rosanne Singer, Editor in Chief.

How: Submittable, or hard copy by mail to Passager, 7401 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208. No email entries.

Pay: A complimentary copy.

Guidelines: <https://passagerbooks.com/winter-issue-submission-guidelines/>

Persimmon Tree

Editor: Margaret E. (Peggy) Wagner, Editor in Chief; Jean Zorn edits Short Takes (About page).

How: Email the piece as an attachment to editor@persimmontree.org (Short Takes: shorttakes@persimmontree.org). You must be a (free) subscriber.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://persimmontree.org/submissions/>

Hippocampus Magazine

Editor: Steph Auteri, Essays Editor; Wendy Fontaine, Flash Editor; Donna Talarico, Founder and Publisher (masthead).

How: Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name.

Pay: \$40 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

Pithead Chapel

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable; name and contact on page one, double-spaced, 12-point.

Pay: No payment.

Guidelines: <https://pitheadchapel.com/submission-guidelines/>

Modern Love (The New York Times)

Editor: Daniel Jones, editor of Modern Love (The New York Times). Salutation: “Dear Mr. Jones” or “Dear Modern Love Editors.”

How: Email modernlove@nytimes.com: attach a Word file and paste the text in the email body.

Pay: \$800.

Guidelines: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/how-to-submit-a-modern-love-essay.html>

Sample cover letter — Narratively (Submittable)

Dear Editors,

Please consider “My First Night at 2601” (1,420 words) for The Personals. It is a first-person account of the night I moved from the house where I had lived for thirty-four years.

[Your name] is a Philadelphia writer and retired [profession].

Thank you,

[Your name]

Essay 4: The Flash or Lyric Essay — from “The Elevator”

As assigned in class: No more than 500 words, or the segmented lyric essay “Thirteen Floors.”

Where it fits best: The most submittable piece in the course: short forms have the most outlets and the fastest replies.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Brevity	750 words or fewer. September–April. Fee: \$3.	Already within 750 words. Revise until nothing can be cut; check that the white space between segments does real work. Single-spaced, no indents.
River Teeth and Beautiful Things	River Teeth: no limit. Beautiful Things: 250 words or fewer. Sept. 1–Dec. 1 and Jan. 1–April 1. Fee: \$3.	For Beautiful Things, cut to 250 words or fewer — often a single segment of your lyric essay can stand alone. Include no previously posted work; no AI assistance.
Tiny Love Stories (The New York Times)	No more than 100 words. Rolling. Fee: None stated.	Cut to 100 words or fewer and center it on love of any kind — for a person, a neighbor, a building, a dog in an elevator.
Reader’s Digest — True Stories	100 words. Rolling. Fee: None stated.	Cut to 100 words with a light, clear payoff. A different 100-word version from the one you send to Tiny Love Stories.
Hippocampus Magazine	Essays up to 4,000 words; flash up to 800. Essays: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30. Flash: Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay).	Fits the flash category (up to 800 words). Open Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31; a flash contest runs in February.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Sweet Lit	Up to 1,500 words total (two or three short pieces, or one longer). CNF in May and June; Flash CNF Contest in November. Fee: Not stated.	Send two or three short pieces together, 1,500 words total. The creative nonfiction window is May–June, with a flash contest in November.
Under the Gum Tree	Departments up to 2,000 words; flash under 750; features longer. Ongoing. Fee: A nominal fee (includes a digital issue).	Fits the flash department (under 750 words).

Editors and How to Submit

Brevity

Editor: Zoë Bossiere, Editor (masthead). Salutation: “Dear Ms. Bossiere” or “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable. Format single-spaced, no indentation, a blank line between paragraphs.

Pay: \$45 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://brevitymag.com/submissions/>

River Teeth and Beautiful Things

Editor: Jill Christman and Mark Neely, Editors; Jill Christman also edits Beautiful Things (masthead). Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable.

Pay: River Teeth: \$100, copies, and a subscription. Beautiful Things: a one-year subscription.

Guidelines: <https://riverteeth.submittable.com/submit>

Tiny Love Stories (The New York Times)

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Online form at nytimes.com/tinylovestories.

Pay: Not stated on the pages reviewed.

Guidelines: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/how-to-submit-a-modern-love-essay.html>

Reader's Digest — True Stories

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: "Dear Editors."

How: Online at rd.com/stories.

Pay: Writer's Digest reports \$100 for true stories used in the magazine (confirm on the site).

Guidelines: <https://www.rd.com/stories/>

Hippocampus Magazine

Editor: Steph Auteri, Essays Editor; Wendy Fontaine, Flash Editor; Donna Talarico, Founder and Publisher (masthead).

How: Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name.

Pay: \$40 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

Sweet Lit

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: "Dear Editors."

How: Online submission manager with a brief cover letter and bio.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://sweetlit.org/guidelines/>

Under the Gum Tree

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: "Dear Editors."

How: Online (digital only); no identifying information on the manuscript.

Pay: Contributor copies.

Guidelines: <https://underthegumtree.com/submit/>

Sample cover letter — Beautiful Things (Submittable)

Dear Editors,

Please consider my micro-essay "Floor Five" (238 words) for Beautiful Things. It is a simultaneous submission, and I will withdraw it right away if it is accepted elsewhere.

[Your name] lives in Philadelphia.

Thank you for reading.

[Your name]

Essay 5: The Profile — “Across the Hall”

As assigned in class: About 750 words; a portrait of a neighbor, friend, or relative built from observation and scene.

Where it fits best: Every venue below requires the subject’s signed consent before you submit. Many outlets prefer profiles tied to a place, a trade, or a community.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Broad Street Review	800–1,000 words. Rolling. Fee: None.	Expand to 800–1,000 words and add a Philadelphia angle: the person’s work, neighborhood, or place in the city’s life. Pitch first by email with “PITCH:” in the subject line.
Philadelphia Stories	Up to 2,500 words. Seasonal windows (Summer/Fall 2026 ran June 1–Sept. 1, 2026); check for the next window. Fee: None.	Expand toward 1,500–2,500 words with more scenes and your own presence in the piece. Emphasize a positive Philadelphia experience.
The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum	600–1,000 words. Year-round; time-sensitive pieces at least six weeks ahead. Fee: None.	Reshape as a first-person essay about what this person taught you, 600–1,000 words, warm in tone.
Hidden City Philadelphia	Not stated. Not stated. Fee: None stated.	If the person is tied to the building’s or neighborhood’s history (a long-serving staff member, a founding resident), pitch a place-centered profile to the editorial director.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Chicken Soup for the Soul	Recommended maximum 1,200 words; no minimum. Book-by-book deadlines on the Possible Book Topics page (for example, a book of funny stories with a deadline extended to Oct. 15, 2026). Fee: None.	If the portrait shows a kindness that changed you, retell it in the first person as your story, up to 1,200 words, with an uplifting ending.
Narratively — The Personals	Ideally 1,000–1,500 words; never over 2,200. Rolling. Fee: Not stated.	Rebuild as your first-person story of one encounter with this person, 1,000–1,500 words.

Editors and How to Submit

Broad Street Review

Editor: Alaina Johns, Editor in Chief (writers' guidelines).

How: Email a pitch to the editor in chief, Alaina Johns (address on the Writers' Guidelines page), with a subject line beginning "PITCH:". Drafts as Word or Google Docs, single-spaced.

Pay: \$100.

Guidelines: <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/writers-guidelines>

Philadelphia Stories

Editor: Jenny Burkholder, Nonfiction Editor (masthead).

How: Online Submission Form for the Nonfiction Editor; include a third-person bio of about 75 words stating your Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey connection.

Pay: \$50 honorarium for print publication.

Guidelines: <https://philadelphiastories.org/submission-guidelines/>

The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum

Editor: Poets & Writers lists Husna Haq as Home Forum editor. Salutation: “Dear Home Forum Editor.”

How: Email homeforum@csmonitor.com with “Submission” in the subject line; paste the text into the email or share a Google Doc. Include contact information and word count.

Pay: \$400 per essay, on publication.

Guidelines: <https://www.csmonitor.com/About/Contributor-guidelines/Contributor-Guidelines-The-Home-Forum>

Hidden City Philadelphia

Editor: Michael Bixler, Editorial Director, mbixler@hiddencityphila.org (contact page).

How: Pitch the Editorial Director, Michael Bixler, at mbixler@hiddencityphila.org.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://hiddencityphila.org/contact/>

Chicken Soup for the Soul

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Online form at chickensoup.com; choose the book topic.

Pay: \$250 one month after the book’s publication, plus ten copies.

Guidelines: <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines/>

Narratively — The Personals

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable.

Pay: \$300.

Guidelines: <https://narratively.submittable.com/submit/321516/submissions-the-personals>

Sample pitch — Broad Street Review (email)

Subject: PITCH: The night doorman who knows every footstep

Dear Ms. Johns,

I would like to propose a 900-word profile of the night doorman at my apartment building near the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, who has worked the overnight shift for nineteen years. Built from scenes I observed over several nights, it is a portrait of the people who keep a city running while it sleeps. He has read the piece and signed a release.

I am a Philadelphia writer and a resident of Fairmount. The draft is ready to send.

Thank you for considering it,

[Your name]

Essay 6: The Oral History — “Voices of 2601”

As assigned in class: 500–1,000 words; a monologue in the speaker’s own words, approved by the speaker.

Where it fits best: Few magazines publish raw monologues. Most venues will need the speaker’s voice set inside your own framing essay, or the piece tied to local history or a public question.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Hidden City Philadelphia	Not stated. Not stated. Fee: None stated.	Pitch it as a first-person account of the building’s history, with a short introduction giving context and sources. Offer photographs only if you have permission.
Broad Street Review	800–1,000 words. Rolling. Fee: None.	Frame the monologue with 300–400 words of your own: who the speaker is, why their story matters now. Total 800–1,000 words; pitch first.
Philadelphia Stories	Up to 2,500 words. Seasonal windows (Summer/Fall 2026 ran June 1–Sept. 1, 2026); check for the next window. Fee: None.	Rewrite as an essay in your voice about listening to this person, quoting their best lines, up to 2,500 words. Include the speaker’s approval in your notes.
The Philadelphia Inquirer — Opinion	About 700 words (letters to the editor: 200 words at most). Rolling; editors ask for five business days before you submit elsewhere. Fee: None.	Use the oral history as evidence for a timely argument (aging in place, the value of historic buildings), about 700 words, submitted through the online form only.
Pithead Chapel	Up to 4,000 words. Rolling, capped at 300 submissions a month. Fee: Not stated.	Experimental and segmented forms are welcome: keep the monologue, add a brief headnote on method and consent, and extend with a closing section in your voice (up to 4,000 words).

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Fourth Genre	Up to 8,000 words. General: Sept. 1–Nov. 30. Steinberg Essay Prize: Jan. 1–March 15. Fee: \$4 (prize: \$20).	Develop into a longer literary essay (up to 8,000 words) interweaving interview and reflection. Reading period Sept. 1–Nov. 30; read blind.

Editors and How to Submit

Hidden City Philadelphia

Editor: Michael Bixler, Editorial Director, mbixler@hiddencityphila.org (contact page).

How: Pitch the Editorial Director, Michael Bixler, at mbixler@hiddencityphila.org.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://hiddencityphila.org/contact/>

Broad Street Review

Editor: Alaina Johns, Editor in Chief (writers' guidelines).

How: Email a pitch to the editor in chief, Alaina Johns (address on the Writers' Guidelines page), with a subject line beginning "PITCH:". Drafts as Word or Google Docs, single-spaced.

Pay: \$100.

Guidelines: <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/writers-guidelines>

Philadelphia Stories

Editor: Jenny Burkholder, Nonfiction Editor (masthead).

How: Online Submission Form for the Nonfiction Editor; include a third-person bio of about 75 words stating your Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey connection.

Pay: \$50 honorarium for print publication.

Guidelines: <https://philadelphiastories.org/submission-guidelines/>

The Philadelphia Inquirer — Opinion

Editor: Richard G. Jones, managing editor of the Opinion desk; Sabrina Vourvoulias, senior editor for commentary.

How: Op-eds only through the form on the submission page; letters to letters@inquirer.com. Include 1–2 lines of bio and links to sources.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/philadelphia-inquirer-op-ed-opinion-pitch-submission.html>

Pithead Chapel

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable; name and contact on page one, double-spaced, 12-point.

Pay: No payment.

Guidelines: <https://pitheadchapel.com/submission-guidelines/>

Fourth Genre

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable; read blind — no name on the manuscript.

Pay: Two contributor copies.

Guidelines: <https://fourthgenre.submittable.com/submit>

Sample query — Hidden City Philadelphia (email)

Subject: A resident’s memories of 2601 Parkway since 1968

Dear Mr. Bixler,

I live at 2601 Pennsylvania Avenue and recently recorded a long-time resident’s memories of the building, from her arrival in 1968 to the summer evenings when neighbors watched the lights come on along the Parkway. I have shaped the interview into a 1,000-word first-person account with a brief introduction and sources, and she has approved the text.

Would Hidden City be interested in seeing it?

With thanks,

[Your name]

Essay 7: The Braided Essay — “The Building’s Biography”

As assigned in class: 1,000–1,500 words; your life braided with the history of 2601 or Philadelphia; a short list of sources.

Where it fits best: One of the strongest pieces the course produces, and one that suits both local outlets and literary journals.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
River Teeth and Beautiful Things	River Teeth: no limit. Beautiful Things: 250 words or fewer. Sept. 1–Dec. 1 and Jan. 1–April 1. Fee: \$3.	River Teeth has no length limit: expand to 2,500–5,000 words, add a third strand if the essay wants one, and make the research sing. Open Sept. 1–Dec. 1 and Jan. 1–April 1.
Fourth Genre	Up to 8,000 words. General: Sept. 1–Nov. 30. Steinberg Essay Prize: Jan. 1–March 15. Fee: \$4 (prize: \$20).	Expand to 3,000–6,000 words. Remove your name for blind reading; note word count in the cover letter.
Hidden City Philadelphia	Not stated. Not stated. Fee: None stated.	Tilt the balance toward the building’s history (about two-thirds history, one-third personal) and include sources. Pitch the editorial director.
Broad Street Review	800–1,000 words. Rolling. Fee: None.	Trim to 800–1,000 words, keeping the strongest two segments of each strand. Pitch first.
Philadelphia Stories	Up to 2,500 words. Seasonal windows (Summer/Fall 2026 ran June 1–Sept. 1, 2026); check for the next window. Fee: None.	Fits as is, or expand to 2,500. Emphasize the Philadelphia history and your connection to the region in your bio.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Hippocampus Magazine	Essays up to 4,000 words; flash up to 800. Essays: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30. Flash: Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay).	Expand to 2,000–4,000 words for the essay category; remove your name from the file.

Editors and How to Submit

River Teeth and Beautiful Things

Editor: Jill Christman and Mark Neely, Editors; Jill Christman also edits Beautiful Things (masthead). Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable.

Pay: River Teeth: \$100, copies, and a subscription. Beautiful Things: a one-year subscription.

Guidelines: <https://riverteeth.submittable.com/submit>

Fourth Genre

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable; read blind — no name on the manuscript.

Pay: Two contributor copies.

Guidelines: <https://fourthgenre.submittable.com/submit>

Hidden City Philadelphia

Editor: Michael Bixler, Editorial Director, mbixler@hiddencityphila.org (contact page).

How: Pitch the Editorial Director, Michael Bixler, at mbixler@hiddencityphila.org.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://hiddencityphila.org/contact/>

Broad Street Review

Editor: Alaina Johns, Editor in Chief (writers' guidelines).

How: Email a pitch to the editor in chief, Alaina Johns (address on the Writers' Guidelines page), with a subject line beginning "PITCH:". Drafts as Word or Google Docs, single-spaced.

Pay: \$100.

Guidelines: <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/writers-guidelines>

Philadelphia Stories

Editor: Jenny Burkholder, Nonfiction Editor (masthead).

How: Online Submission Form for the Nonfiction Editor; include a third-person bio of about 75 words stating your Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey connection.

Pay: \$50 honorarium for print publication.

Guidelines: <https://philadelphiastories.org/submission-guidelines/>

Hippocampus Magazine

Editor: Steph Auteri, Essays Editor; Wendy Fontaine, Flash Editor; Donna Talarico, Founder and Publisher (masthead).

How: Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name.

Pay: \$40 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

Sample cover letter — River Teeth (Submittable)

Dear Editors,

Please consider my essay "Roundhouse" (3,200 words), which braids the history of the Baldwin Locomotive Works site beneath my Philadelphia apartment building with my grandfather's life as a railroad man. It is a simultaneous submission.

[Your name] is a retired [profession] who lives in Philadelphia.

Thank you for your time,

[Your name]

Essay 8: The Arts Essay — “Across the Parkway”

As assigned in class: 750–1,000 words; the lobby mural, a work at the Rodin Museum or the Philadelphia Museum of Art, or a work of art or music that shaped your life.

Where it fits best: Arts essays sell best when a personal story runs through the looking.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Broad Street Review	800–1,000 words. Rolling. Fee: None.	It covers Philadelphia arts and culture: keep 800–1,000 words and add a sentence of context about the work and where readers can see it. Pitch first.
The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum	600–1,000 words. Year-round; time-sensitive pieces at least six weeks ahead. Fee: None.	Keep it gentle and personal, 600–1,000 words. Pieces about looking and discovery suit the column.
Hidden City Philadelphia	Not stated. Not stated. Fee: None stated.	For the lobby mural or public art: add history (Frances Serber and Nicholas Marsicano’s 1940 mural The History of Shelter) and cite sources. Pitch the editorial director.
Philadelphia Stories	Up to 2,500 words. Seasonal windows (Summer/Fall 2026 ran June 1–Sept. 1, 2026); check for the next window. Fee: None.	Expand to 1,500–2,500 words, with more of your life around the artwork.
Hippocampus Magazine	Essays up to 4,000 words; flash up to 800. Essays: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30. Flash: Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay).	Trim to 800 words for flash, centered on one act of looking.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
The Sun — Readers Write	No set limit; most published pieces run about 300–1,000 words. Topic deadlines posted on the site; upcoming topics listed Sept. 27, 2026: “Roots” (due Oct. 1) and “Teamwork” (due Nov. 1). Fee: None.	If a posted topic fits (a work of art can be your “Roots”), reshape it as a sincere true story on that topic.

Editors and How to Submit

Broad Street Review

Editor: Alaina Johns, Editor in Chief (writers’ guidelines).

How: Email a pitch to the editor in chief, Alaina Johns (address on the Writers’ Guidelines page), with a subject line beginning “PITCH:”. Drafts as Word or Google Docs, single-spaced.

Pay: \$100.

Guidelines: <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/writers-guidelines>

The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum

Editor: Poets & Writers lists Husna Haq as Home Forum editor. Salutation: “Dear Home Forum Editor.”

How: Email homeforum@csmonitor.com with “Submission” in the subject line; paste the text into the email or share a Google Doc. Include contact information and word count.

Pay: \$400 per essay, on publication.

Guidelines: <https://www.csmonitor.com/About/Contributor-guidelines/Contributor-Guidelines-The-Home-Forum>

Hidden City Philadelphia

Editor: Michael Bixler, Editorial Director, mbixler@hiddencityphila.org (contact page).

How: Pitch the Editorial Director, Michael Bixler, at mbixler@hiddencityphila.org.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://hiddencityphila.org/contact/>

Philadelphia Stories

Editor: Jenny Burkholder, Nonfiction Editor (masthead).

How: Online Submission Form for the Nonfiction Editor; include a third-person bio of about 75 words stating your Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey connection.

Pay: \$50 honorarium for print publication.

Guidelines: <https://philadelphiastories.org/submission-guidelines/>

Hippocampus Magazine

Editor: Steph Auteri, Essays Editor; Wendy Fontaine, Flash Editor; Donna Talarico, Founder and Publisher (masthead).

How: Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name.

Pay: \$40 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

The Sun — Readers Write

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable, or typed/handwritten manuscript by mail. No email. Put your name and the topic on page 1.

Pay: A complimentary one-year subscription.

Guidelines: <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/submit/readers-write>

Sample cover letter — The Home Forum (email to homeforum@csmonitor.com)

Subject: Submission

Dear Home Forum Editor,

I am pleased to offer “The Thinker, at a Distance” (720 words), a personal essay about finally stopping to look at Rodin’s sculpture on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. It has not been published or submitted elsewhere. The text is pasted below.

[Your name], Philadelphia, PA · [email] · [phone]

Thank you for your consideration.

Essay 9: The Hermit Crab Essay — “Notices on the Bulletin Board”

As assigned in class: 300–1,000 words; memoir inside a borrowed form (maintenance request, lobby notice, lease clause).

Where it fits best: Editors of literary magazines love a fully earned borrowed form. Keep the form strict and the feeling real.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Brevity	750 words or fewer. September–April. Fee: \$3.	Keep to 750 words or fewer; make sure the ending uses the form’s last field or fine print. Brevity has published celebrated hermit crab essays.
Pithead Chapel	Up to 4,000 words. Rolling, capped at 300 submissions a month. Fee: Not stated.	Welcomes experimental essays up to 4,000 words; you might extend the form (several forms in sequence). Name on page one, double-spaced.
Under the Gum Tree	Departments up to 2,000 words; flash under 750; features longer. Ongoing. Fee: A nominal fee (includes a digital issue).	Fits the flash department (under 750 words).
Hippocampus Magazine	Essays up to 4,000 words; flash up to 800. Essays: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and March 1–April 30. Flash: Sept. 1–Nov. 30 and March 1–May 31. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay).	Flash category, up to 800 words; blind reading.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
River Teeth and Beautiful Things	River Teeth: no limit. Beautiful Things: 250 words or fewer. Sept. 1–Dec. 1 and Jan. 1–April 1. Fee: \$3.	For Beautiful Things, cut to a 250-word form (a single notice or slip).
Sweet Lit	Up to 1,500 words total (two or three short pieces, or one longer). CNF in May and June; Flash CNF Contest in November. Fee: Not stated.	Pair it with one or two other short pieces (1,500 words total) in the May–June window, or enter the November flash contest.

Editors and How to Submit

Brevity

Editor: Zoë Bossiere, Editor (masthead). Salutation: “Dear Ms. Bossiere” or “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable. Format single-spaced, no indentation, a blank line between paragraphs.

Pay: \$45 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://brevitymag.com/submissions/>

Pithead Chapel

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable; name and contact on page one, double-spaced, 12-point.

Pay: No payment.

Guidelines: <https://pitheadchapel.com/submission-guidelines/>

Under the Gum Tree

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Online (digital only); no identifying information on the manuscript.

Pay: Contributor copies.

Guidelines: <https://underthegumtree.com/submit/>

Hippocampus Magazine

Editor: Steph Auteri, Essays Editor; Wendy Fontaine, Flash Editor; Donna Talarico, Founder and Publisher (masthead).

How: Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name.

Pay: \$40 honorarium.

Guidelines: <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

River Teeth and Beautiful Things

Editor: Jill Christman and Mark Neely, Editors; Jill Christman also edits Beautiful Things (masthead). Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable.

Pay: River Teeth: \$100, copies, and a subscription. Beautiful Things: a one-year subscription.

Guidelines: <https://riverteeth.submittable.com/submit>

Sweet Lit

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Online submission manager with a brief cover letter and bio.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://sweetlit.org/guidelines/>

Sample cover letter — Pithead Chapel (Submittable)

Dear Editors,

Please consider “Maintenance Request” (340 words), a hermit crab essay written in the form of a building maintenance form. This is a simultaneous submission.

[Your name] lives in Philadelphia. This would be her first publication.

Thank you for reading.

[Your name]

Essay 10: The Building Biography — “One Day in One Year” (from “Other Roofs”)

As assigned in class: Developed from the Session 10 in-class writing: one day in the life of 2601 in a chosen year, expanded to 1,000–2,500 words.

Where it fits best: Nonfiction venues need every imagined element clearly signposted (“Imagine the building could speak...”). Keep verified facts, sourced, separate from what you imagine.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
Hidden City Philadelphia	Not stated. Not stated. Fee: None stated.	The natural home. Expand the verified history (Cret and Colish; the 1939 opening; the 1940 mural; the Baldwin roundhouse site), cite sources, and keep imagined passages short and clearly marked. Pitch the editorial director.
Broad Street Review	800–1,000 words. Rolling. Fee: None.	Trim to 800–1,000 words for an essay about the building and what it has meant to its residents; pitch first.
Philadelphia Stories	Up to 2,500 words. Seasonal windows (Summer/Fall 2026 ran June 1–Sept. 1, 2026); check for the next window. Fee: None.	Expand to 2,000–2,500 words, adding your own years in the building as a second strand.
The Philadelphia Inquirer — Opinion	About 700 words (letters to the editor: 200 words at most). Rolling; editors ask for five business days before you submit elsewhere. Fee: None.	Turn it into an argument of about 700 words — for example, why the city’s historic apartment buildings matter — using the building’s history as evidence. Online form only; editors ask for five business days.
Fourth Genre	Up to 8,000 words. General: Sept. 1–Nov. 30. Steinberg Essay Prize: Jan. 1–March 15. Fee: \$4 (prize: \$20).	Develop a longer literary essay (3,000–8,000 words) that reflects on how a building remembers, braiding history, residents’ voices (with consent), and your own.

Venue	Length · When · Fee	How to adapt your class essay
River Teeth and Beautiful Things	River Teeth: no limit. Beautiful Things: 250 words or fewer. Sept. 1–Dec. 1 and Jan. 1–April 1. Fee: \$3.	River Teeth publishes literary journalism as well as essays; a researched, reflective building biography with a strong personal strand is a good match.

Editors and How to Submit

Hidden City Philadelphia

Editor: Michael Bixler, Editorial Director, mbixler@hiddencityphila.org (contact page).

How: Pitch the Editorial Director, Michael Bixler, at mbixler@hiddencityphila.org.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://hiddencityphila.org/contact/>

Broad Street Review

Editor: Alaina Johns, Editor in Chief (writers' guidelines).

How: Email a pitch to the editor in chief, Alaina Johns (address on the Writers' Guidelines page), with a subject line beginning "PITCH:". Drafts as Word or Google Docs, single-spaced.

Pay: \$100.

Guidelines: <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/writers-guidelines>

Philadelphia Stories

Editor: Jenny Burkholder, Nonfiction Editor (masthead).

How: Online Submission Form for the Nonfiction Editor; include a third-person bio of about 75 words stating your Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey connection.

Pay: \$50 honorarium for print publication.

Guidelines: <https://philadelphiastories.org/submission-guidelines/>

The Philadelphia Inquirer — Opinion

Editor: Richard G. Jones, managing editor of the Opinion desk; Sabrina Vourvoulias, senior editor for commentary.

How: Op-eds only through the form on the submission page; letters to letters@inquirer.com. Include 1–2 lines of bio and links to sources.

Pay: Not stated.

Guidelines: <https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/philadelphia-inquirer-op-ed-opinion-pitch-submission.html>

Fourth Genre

Editor: No editor is named in the guidelines. Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable; read blind — no name on the manuscript.

Pay: Two contributor copies.

Guidelines: <https://fourthgenre.submittable.com/submit>

River Teeth and Beautiful Things

Editor: Jill Christman and Mark Neely, Editors; Jill Christman also edits Beautiful Things (masthead). Salutation: “Dear Editors.”

How: Submittable.

Pay: River Teeth: \$100, copies, and a subscription. Beautiful Things: a one-year subscription.

Guidelines: <https://riverteeth.submittable.com/submit>

Sample query — Hidden City Philadelphia (email)

Subject: A day at 2601 Parkway in 1940

Dear Mr. Bixler,

I have written a 1,600-word essay imagining a single day at 2601 Parkway in 1940, the year Frances Serber and Nicholas Marsicano’s mural The History of Shelter was installed in the lobby. The documented history — from the association’s history pages, the Penn Architectural Archives, and Archiveadelphia — is cited, and the imagined passages are clearly marked as such. I am a resident of the building.

Would you like to see it?

With thanks,

[Your name]

How to Submit to Each Venue

Every venue used in this chart, alphabetically, with its submission method.

Brevity. Submittable. Format single-spaced, no indentation, a blank line between paragraphs.

Fee: \$3. Pay: \$45 honorarium. <https://brevitymag.com/submissions/>

Broad Street Review. Email a pitch to the editor in chief, Alaina Johns (address on the Writers' Guidelines page), with a subject line beginning "PITCH:". Drafts as Word or Google Docs, single-spaced. Fee: None. Pay: \$100. <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/writers-guidelines>

Chicken Soup for the Soul. Online form at [chickensoup.com](https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines/); choose the book topic. Fee: None. Pay: \$250 one month after the book's publication, plus ten copies. <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines/>

Fourth Genre. Submittable; read blind — no name on the manuscript. Fee: \$4 (prize: \$20). Pay: Two contributor copies. <https://fourthgenre.submittable.com/submit>

Hidden City Philadelphia. Pitch the Editorial Director, Michael Bixler, at mbixler@hiddencityphila.org. Fee: None stated. Pay: Not stated. <https://hiddencityphila.org/contact/>

Hippocampus Magazine. Submittable; remove your name from the manuscript and file name. Fee: \$3 (a Submission Fund covers those who cannot pay). Pay: \$40 honorarium. <https://www.hippocampusmagazine.com/submissions/>

Modern Love (The New York Times). Email modernlove@nytimes.com: attach a Word file and paste the text in the email body. Fee: None. Pay: \$800. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/how-to-submit-a-modern-love-essay.html>

Narratively — The Personals. Submittable. Fee: Not stated. Pay: \$300. <https://narratively.submittable.com/submit/321516/submissions-the-personals>

Passager. Submittable, or hard copy by mail to Passager, 7401 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208. No email entries. Fee: \$5 on Submittable; free by mail. Pay: A complimentary copy. <https://passagerbooks.com/winter-issue-submission-guidelines/>

Persimmon Tree. Email the piece as an attachment to editor@persimmontree.org (Short Takes: shorttakes@persimmontree.org). You must be a (free) subscriber. Fee: None. Pay: Not stated. <https://persimmontree.org/submissions/>

Philadelphia Stories. Online Submission Form for the Nonfiction Editor; include a third-person bio of about 75 words stating your Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey connection. Fee: None. Pay: \$50 honorarium for print publication. <https://philadelphiastories.org/submission-guidelines/>

Pithead Chapel. Submittable; name and contact on page one, double-spaced, 12-point. Fee: Not stated. Pay: No payment. <https://pitheadchapel.com/submission-guidelines/>

Reader's Digest — True Stories. Online at rd.com/stories. Fee: None stated. Pay: Writer's Digest reports \$100 for true stories used in the magazine (confirm on the site). <https://www.rd.com/stories/>

River Teeth and Beautiful Things. Submittable. Fee: \$3. Pay: River Teeth: \$100, copies, and a subscription. Beautiful Things: a one-year subscription. <https://riverteeth.submittable.com/submit>

Sweet Lit. Online submission manager with a brief cover letter and bio. Fee: Not stated. Pay: Not stated. <https://sweetlit.org/guidelines/>

The Christian Science Monitor — The Home Forum. Email homeforum@csmonitor.com with "Submission" in the subject line; paste the text into the email or share a Google Doc. Include contact information and word count. Fee: None. Pay: \$400 per essay, on publication. <https://www.csmonitor.com/About/Contributor-guidelines/Contributor-Guidelines-The-Home-Forum>

The Philadelphia Inquirer — Opinion. Op-eds only through the form on the submission page; letters to letters@inquirer.com. Include 1–2 lines of bio and links to sources. Fee: None. Pay: Not stated. <https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/philadelphia-inquirer-op-ed-opinion-pitch-submission.html>

The Sun — Essays. Submittable, or by mail. Fee: \$2.50 online; free by mail. Pay: \$200 and up. <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/submit/essays-fiction-poetry>

The Sun — Readers Write. Submittable, or typed/handwritten manuscript by mail. No email. Put your name and the topic on page 1. Fee: None. Pay: A complimentary one-year subscription. <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/submit/readers-write>

Tiny Love Stories (The New York Times). Online form at nytimes.com/tinylovestories. Fee: None stated. Pay: Not stated on the pages reviewed. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/how-to-submit-a-modern-love-essay.html>

Under the Gum Tree. Online (digital only); no identifying information on the manuscript. Fee: A nominal fee (includes a digital issue). Pay: Contributor copies. <https://underthegumtree.com/submit/>

Form Letters for Every Situation

Withdrawal note (the day a piece is accepted elsewhere)

Dear Editors,

I am writing to withdraw my essay “[Title],” submitted on [date], which has been accepted elsewhere. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

Status query (only after the venue’s stated response time has passed)

Dear Editors,

I submitted my essay “[Title]” on [date] and wanted to check on its status, as your guidelines mention a response time of [time]. Thank you for your work, and please let me know if you need anything from me.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

Reply to an acceptance

Dear [Editor],

Thank you so much. I am delighted to accept, and I am withdrawing the essay from other venues today. Please let me know what you need from me — a bio, a contract, or answers to any editing questions.

With gratitude,

[Your name]

Thank-you after a personal rejection

Dear [Editor],

Thank you for your kind note about “[Title].” It meant a great deal. I will keep your magazine in mind for my next essay.

Best wishes,

[Your name]

Questions about this chart? James Mulhern · authorjamesmulhern@gmail.com ·
oneroof.silvercurrentpress.com