



FOR TODAY'S FAST-PACED WORD

For more information,
contact Zeke Fritts

RiffAssist1@writers-at-large.com

www.writers-at-large.com



WRITERS AT LARGE

Greetings! Thanks for your interest in Writers at Large and in possibly becoming a guest contributor to *Riff*. We are looking for expert writing that compels the reader to “riff” on what you have written, whether by appealing to emotion, stimulating thought, slowing considerations, challenging arguments, or inspiring creativity. We believe crafted language to be the most profoundly human and most elevated skill possible for our species.

In addition to finding posts that serve our topics, we are looking for original concepts, compelling arguments, and high-quality writing that inform and transform the reader.

Please take some time to review this entire page — it should answer any questions you have about the type of content we are seeking and our submission process.

BROAD THEMATIC FOCUS OF RIFF

Stranger Than Fiction

- Nature Writing
- Travel Writing / Global Voices
- Incredible Stories
- Heroic Memoirs
- Real-Life Crime Stories
- Animal Stories
- Tales of Survival
- Biography
- Historical
- Food Writing

- Inner Discovery
- Other

For the Sake of Argument

- Toastmasters
- Rhetoric
- Persuasive Essays
- Political Writing and Propaganda
- Literary Criticism
- Chautauqua / Soapboxes

- Marketing and Promotion
- Source-Checking
- Other

Let There Be Light

- Spiritual Writing
- Sermons
- Biblical
- Wellness
- New Age

- Classics: Blake, Milton, John Donne, etc.
- Myths and Totems
- Scientific Writing
- Philosophical Underpinnings
- Other

Expanding Beyond

- Interdisciplinary
- Cosplay and Videogames
- Comic Books / Cartoons
- Literary Film and TV
- Jokes and Comedy
- Obituaries
- Soap Opera Writing
- Celebrity Writing
- Epistolary Writing
- Fairy Tales
- Linguistics
- Erotica
- Blogging
- Photojournalism
- Gender/Orientation
- Literary Art
- Ethnic/Cultural
- Adaptations
- Poker Tales
- Playwriting
- The Language of Math
- Computer Language
- Songwriting
- Storytelling
- Anime

- Performance Art
- Other

The Super Power of Language

- STEAM
- Dyslexia
- Learning Disabilities
- Outreach to Kids
- Literacy and EASL
- Veterans
- Quality Writing
- Award-Winning Writers
- Health and Writing
- Seniors
- Riff Causeway (e.g., Libraries Under Siege, Indie Bookstores vs. Amazon, etc.)

Jam Sessions

- Interviews
- Book analysis and Discussion
- Vlog Hosting
- On-Line Awards
- Panels
- Spotlights on Literary Nonprofits
- Live Readings
- Live Book Clubs
- Peer Critiques
- Testimonials and Recommendations
- Readers' Favorites
- Other

Theme Park

- MLK Day (Jan)
- Ground Hog Day (Feb)
- St. Patrick's Day (Mar)
- Earth Day (Apr)
- Memorial Day (May)
- Father's Day (Jun)
- Independence Day (Jul)
- Back to School for many (Aug)
- Banned Books Week (Sept)
- Halloween (Oct)
- Veteran's Day (Nov)
- Christmas / Hanukkah (Dec)
- Any holidays or special awareness days / weeks / months
- Quarantines
- Authors' Birthdays / Tributes / Memorials
- Other (?)

Walk the Talk

- Skill Sets
- Writing Tools
- Technical Writing
- Teaching Creative Writing Live and On-Line
- Forms and Formulas

- Genres
- Featured Agent / Bloggers
- Nonprofit Consultants
- Ghostwriting
- Finding an Agent
- Conducting Research
- Grammar
- Editing & Revision
- Awards
- Small Presses & Magazines
- Reading like a Writer
- Other (?)

BLOG GUIDELINES

GENERAL GUIDELINES

SUBMISSION LENGTH/WORD COUNT

- Please aim for a submission with a length of 1,000-2,800 words, whether original, reprint, or repost. Some topics may call for longer articles of 3,500-5,000, so we can divide the article into shorter installments (we will work with you on this).
- Do not sacrifice depth for the sake of brevity. We do not enforce a strict word count, but most articles will fall in the 1,000-3500-word range, with an average of 2500 words. Instead of trying to hit a specific word count, please focus on clear, in-depth writing that speaks to readers of different levels and motivations. It is better to over-explain than under-explain and leave some readers in the dark. Our editing team can also tighten your post in a way that might not be immediately obvious to you as the “immersed” writer.

POINT OF VIEW/VOICE/AUDIENCE

- You may use any POV that best serves your post, whether first person (using words like “I,” “me,” or “my”), 2nd person (“You,” “yours”), or 3rd person (“He,” “She,” “They”).
- You may write from the standpoint of a conversational, educational / authoritative, experiential, personal, and / or literary resource on the topic.
- Develop a recognizable voice suitable to your target audience and stay consistent.

- Write to an audience of educated, thinking, and / or artistic individuals who may or may not know anything about your chosen topic.
- Take the most direct route in your writing by using your natural voice. Avoid unnecessary filler words and “empty” adjectives and adverbs that exemplify personal opinion (e.g., “stupendous,” “magnificently”).

STYLE AND FORMAT

- Add bulleted lists to help break up dense copy chunks where detailing factual points. Numbered lists should be formatted as number + period.
- Always include a conclusion so that the reader feels satisfied.

PROOFREADING AND ACCURACY

- Please double-check your work to make sure there are no errors. As a guest writer, we are relying on you to be the expert of your experience, whether personal, artistic, or academic. Always double-check your work **BEFORE** you submit.

ENHANCEMENTS

POST ENHANCEMENTS

- Please feel free to include “extras” when such content suitably enhances your post: audio files, YouTube links, cartoons, illustrations, literary clips, or images/charts. We encourage you to do what is best for your work to enhance the reader’s experience.

IMAGE STANDARDS

- Contributors are strongly encouraged to provide one or more illustrations for their post. This may be in the form of photographs, graphics or a cartoon.
- Photos and illustrations can be in .png or .jpg format, but a compressed .jpg is preferred. GIFs are acceptable as .gif.

- The editorial team reserves the right to curate which images are, or are not, included on our website.
- Images submitted for the **primary** or **featured** image should be sized **640px x 480px** at no more than **150dpi**.

IMAGE OWNERSHIP

- You must own the rights to any writing, clips, pictures, videos, or images that you include as part of your overall post unless they come from an open share site (e.g., YouTube, Pexels, etc.). When including images, or screenshots, please cite the source as: “Image source” and hyperlink that text with the page where you found the image. If you have a photo requiring credit, please include the photographer’s name. If you are the photographer/artist, then please include a release for us to use the image.

IMAGE PERMISSIONS

- It is essential that Riff / W@L has permission to publish the image if not from an open source site, either through a Creative Commons license or through explicit written permission from the copyright owner. Just because someone granted you one-time use does not mean we can automatically assume it has been extended to us. **If from the Internet, please provide a link to the source, with evidence of its “free to use” status.**

BETWEEN THE LINES

ORIGINAL WORK

- Articles must be your original work, even if you are submitting a reprint or repost.
- If the article is a post from one of your guest writers, include the status of the permissions usage.

RIGHT TO EDIT/ACCEPT

- Our Editorial Team reserves the right to edit your article, including grammar, spelling, and formatting. If a direct quote contains errors, we reserve the right to interject “sic.”
- Submissions must meet our editors’ quality standards for publication. Our team may modify / edit your entry to make it better conform to our editorial tastes and thematic goals. We will also update it in the future for accuracy and comprehensiveness if needed.
- Editors reserve the right to reject contributions at their discretion, even if said post has been solicited by us.

USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Personal information about other people such as last names, email addresses, and personal websites are not permitted unless we have explicit guarantees from said individuals and that the inclusion of such information is needed. You may, however, mention your own website or contact information in the bio section to encourage cross pollination between sources.

CITING SOURCES AND DATA

- We expect data, quotations, and outside content referenced in the article to be honest, accurate, and reliable. **Note: All data should have originated within the last five years.**

LINKING/CROSS PROMOTION

- You may link or republish your guest post to your own blog, LinkedIn, Medium, Facebook, or Inbound.org afterward. Please mention us if republished with a link to our site. We wish to increase traffic between all contributors and W@L / Riff.
- Our editors reserve the right to include “calls-to-actions” postings, and link similar content or timely ideas, including, but not limited to, other posts, programs, websites, email newsletters, e-books, and/or downloadable content.

WHAT WE DON'T ACCEPT

RACISM/AGEISM/SEXISM

- We do not tolerate offensive, false, sexist, racist, ageist, or inaccurate posts.

PROMOTION

- No articles that are only promotional for your company or organization, in other words, a commercial. We do, however, want very much to help inform our readers about you or your work, organization, website, project, and /or blog

PLAGIARISM

- We will not tolerate plagiarism. Be sure to properly attribute quotes or ideas that are not your own. Unattributed use of other people's work is unacceptable and harms not only the original author, but your credibility, as well as the reputation of the blog.

TELL ALL/INVESTIGATIVE

- We will not accept posts or sections of a post that air dirty laundry, embed "gotcha"s, name-call, or exchange "tit for tat" with those whom you disagree. Please avoid anything that is overly critical of private individuals, groups, or companies that could draw claims of defamation and liability. We are not a blog for investigative journalism.

HOW TO SUBMIT

PRE-LAUNCH

- If your submission is unsolicited, we ask that you email our Assistant Editor RiffAssist1@writers-at-large.com. Please include the topic(s) you believe your work will best fit as well as a sample or links to your work.
- If have been invited to contribute, send your content and auxiliary items to riffassit1@writersatlarge.com

INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR TEXT:

- Blog Title.
- Your name directly below the title.
- A short writer's profile with headshot (if new contributor)
- Any link(s) if / when the work was previously published.
- Any links to your email, website, blog, Twitter, Facebook, or other social media (optional)
- Two-to-four keywords that will help with any search.
- A caption for your image (if relevant).
- The source of your image and any copyright information in brackets
- We will also need you to email a short bio, picture, links, or any contextual information that may be needed.

POST-LAUNCH

- If your submission is unsolicited, please [apply to submit](#).
 - Please have the following items available:
 - Your contact information
 - Links to your work or samples of your work to upload
 - Your social media profile links
 - Links to your blog, website, podcast or YouTube channel
- If you have been invited to contribute or approved as a Contributor, send your content and auxiliary items through our [submission form](#).
- Once you have been accepted as a contributor, please complete the [profile form](#).

When we have published your article, we will give you the link for sharing. We encourage you to promote your post on your blog, social channels, and emails if possible. Again, we wish to encourage as much ***cross-pollination as possible and grow everyone's readerships.***