

Teen Gazette's Mini Issue: Submission Guidelines

Our mini issues are bite-sized editions of Teen Gazette that give teen writers and artists more opportunities to share their work throughout the year. Unlike our full-length issues, mini issues are themeless, giving you the freedom to explore any idea, experience, or subject that matters to you. Submissions are always open and reviewed on a rolling basis, with accepted pieces published throughout the month and brought together in a new collection each month.

What We're Looking For :)

We want honest, creative, and original work that represents teen voices from everywhere.

- For writing, we're looking for pieces that make readers think, feel, or see something differently.
- For art, we want visuals that communicate an idea, story, or emotion.

Since our mini issues are themeless, you can explore whatever interests you. Your piece can be personal, emotional, funny, imaginative, reflective, or anything else you want it to be.

There's no specific theme to follow. Just make it yours.

What We Don't Accept :(

We want everyone to have creative freedom, but there are a few things we can't publish to keep Teen Gazette safe, fair, and original.

We don't accept:

- Videos, animations, or GIFs
- Websites or interactive media
- Plagiarized work or anything copied from another source
- Work made with Generative AI (using AI for grammar or citations is fine, but not for writing or creating art)
- Novelettes or full-length novels

If it isn't your own work, or if it doesn't fit the spirit of creative expression, it won't be accepted.

Our Rules:

Please keep these guidelines in mind when submitting:

- For writing, grammar matters, unless you're breaking it on purpose for style or artistic effect.
 - We accept pieces mainly written in English, but we encourage mixing in other languages or cultural elements. Any language can be used in art.
 - Discrimination or hate toward any group or individual is not allowed. However, you're encouraged to write about these topics if your goal is awareness, empathy, or reflection.
 - We do not publish work containing sexual content, nudity, or graphic depictions of violence. Submissions should be appropriate for a general teen audience.
 - No fan works or copyrighted references to movies, games, or online franchises for copyright reasons.
 - Each person may submit only one piece per month, regardless of category. Any additional submissions received will not be considered.
-

Writing Categories:

→ Poetry:

Poetry expresses emotion, imagery, and rhythm through language. Poems can tell a story, capture a feeling, or reflect on an idea. We encourage authenticity, vulnerability, and creative experimentation with form or voice.

Requirements:

- Up to 40 lines
- Any style or form is accepted (free verse, spoken word, narrative, structured, etc.)
- Poems should feel intentional; every line should add meaning, emotion, or imagery
- May include figurative language, repetition, and sound devices, but should not rely only on rhyme

→ Short Stories:

A brief narrative that can usually be read in one sitting. It focuses on a few characters, one setting, and one central idea or mood.

Requirements:

- 1,001 – 1,500 words
- Must include: at least one character, a plot, a theme, a conflict, and a setting
- The message should run throughout the story, not just at the end
- We encourage symbolism and deeper meaning beneath the surface

→ Micro / Flash Fiction:

A very short piece that captures one emotion, idea, or moment. Even with its length, it should still feel complete.

Requirements:

- Micro Fiction: 1 – 500 words
- Flash Fiction: 501 – 1,000 words
- Must have a beginning, middle, and end (any ending style is accepted)
- Can focus on emotion instead of a traditional theme, as long as it has purpose

→ Creative Nonfiction / Personal Essays:

True stories told creatively. These pieces reflect on personal experiences, growth, or how the world has shaped you.

Requirements:

- Up to 1,500 words
- Include a character (you or someone real), a theme, and some conflict or realization
- Should feel genuine and reflective rather than report-like
- Symbolism and introspection are encouraged

→ Reflections / Letters / Journals:

Personal narratives written as entries, letters, or messages to yourself or someone else. This style offers a lot of freedom and often connects deeply to our theme.

Requirements:

- Up to 1,500 words
- Handwriting fonts allowed for aesthetic reasons (but must be legible)
- Grammar doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to read clearly

→ Opinion / Critical Essays:

Essays that share a strong viewpoint on a topic you care about. Can be formal or personal, but should be thoughtful and well reasoned.

Requirements:

- Up to 1,500 words (citations not included)
- Must include an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion
- MLA or APA citations encouraged for sources
- Personal pronouns allowed in opinion essays, but use formal grammar
- Topics should have meaning, no satirical or comical claims

Visual Arts Categories:

→ Visual Art / Photography:

Artwork that expresses a story, idea, or emotion visually.

Requirements:

- File must be high-resolution (300 DPI preferred).
- For traditional art, photos should be clear and well-lit.
 - May include:
 - Digital illustrations
 - Hand-drawn art
 - Photography
 - Collages
 - Comics or sequential art

We encourage artwork that reflects emotion, identity, or perspective; just like good writing does.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us: contact@teengazette.org