

filament

WRITING NON-FICTION FOR FILAMENT MAGAZINE

Last revised March 2010

These guidelines are for writers who wish to contribute non-fiction to Filament magazine.

I haven't seen Filament, but it sounds cool, I'm submitting!

We are no longer able to discuss submissions with anyone who hasn't read our magazine, because we find this is generally a waste of both your time and ours. You can get a copy of Filament through our website here: www.filamentmagazine.com/buy.aspx.

Do you pay?

Non-fiction writers appear in Filament magazine on the same basis as all contributors – if your work appears in an issue that makes a profit, it will be shared proportionally among contributors. Either way we'll send you two free copies and lots of love.

What motivates writers to submit to Filament?

Usually a combination of support for our goals and the benefits of having work in a print publication to a writing career.

What should I write about?

- Ask yourself what you're interested in and passionate about.
- Try not to ghettoise women's interests. Instead of thinking, *What are women interested in?* think, *What's interesting?*
- Contrary to popular belief, we are *not* only interested in articles that have some kind of sex-related component.

Let me rephrase that. What sort of writing don't you want?

We don't publish:

- personal appearance-related topics such as fashion, cosmetics and dieting
- women's performed sexuality, such as pole dancing and burlesque
- topics that might not be relevant in three months' time
- topics only relevant to the residents of one country
- writing that has already been published, including on the internet

- subjects that have no merit other than being sex-related
- articles that are mainly driven by your personal experience
- articles specifically on feminism (eg, *How fellatio is a feminist act*). Filament's thought might be considered feminist by many, but many of our readers don't identify as feminists, so these topics are best sent to feminist magazines.

Please note: This list is **not** a moral judgement on any of the above topics. We don't cover certain topics usually because they're being widely covered in other magazines, and we're not interested in re-inventing the wheel.

Can I write about something obscure, academic or technical?

Yes please, as long as you can do so in a way that a lay person can understand.

Can I use my article to promote my business or website?

No. However, if your website is one of the best sources of information on the topic, you could fit in a 'further reading/information' list.

Can I write an opinion piece, rant or personal story?

We generally prefer to receive factual material, but we're open-minded. Tell us your idea or send us a sample, and we'll tell you if it suits.

What about reviews?

Yep, reviews are good. Our reviewers generally choose a theme and review three to six things that fit around that theme, rather than reviewing things simply because they're new.

Can I use a pseudonym?

We prefer that you use your real name but if you feel very strongly about it, you can use a pseudonym. Your pseudonym must sound like a real name.

How long should it be?

- Aim for 1250 to 2250 words.
- Lists, short pieces and 'filler' pieces are especially welcome.

What are your upcoming themes and due dates?

Issue comes out	Copy deadline	Theme*
June 2010	1 April 2010	1920s, the Jazz Age, the silver screen, the bright young people, modernism, art deco, cocktails...
September 2010	1 July 2010	Mythological creatures, the supernatural, the undead,

		angels and demons, gods and monsters...
December 2010	1 October 2010	Red: roses, redheads, red sky, blood red, red pants, lack of red pants...

* Themes are rough guides only. We are also open to material that doesn't fit the theme. Please be imaginative: subtly suggesting the theme, or even being inspired by something only obscurely related to the theme, is all good.

Can I submit something that isn't related to the theme?

Absolutely.

How do I write something *really good*?

- Research, research, research.
- Contact relevant people or organisations and ask them to answer simple, well-focused questions and quote them in your article. It makes your article more authoritative and often, even fairly well-known authors and academics are happy to answer specific, relevant and interesting questions.
- Rather than spending a lot of effort sounding elegant or worrying about spelling and grammar, focus on being clear, precise and well-researched. It's the editor's responsibility to worry about your grammar, and sadly, there's every chance nice turns of phrase will have to be cut for space.
- Include lists, quotes, 'top tips' and lexicon (technical words relevant to your chosen subject, and their meaning) even if they summarise other parts of your article - anything that can be 'pulled out' is good - it draws readers in.
- Statistics or specific facts should reference a publicly available, reputable source.
- Keep personal story to a minimum – as a rough guide, it could make up 5% of your article – unless there is a special reason to include more.
- If you're quoting someone you spoke with, whether in person, via email or messaging etc, get their consent to their words being included in your article.
- Be balanced and fair. You can of course evaluate the evidence and draw reasoned conclusions.
- Take a risk – say something challenging and different.

What else should I consider?

- There will almost certainly be either rewrites or editing.
- Rewrites are when you're asked to take a different angle on your article or elements of it, or flesh out aspects that readers might want to know more about.
- Editing could be light or substantial – all your sentences may be rephrased or put in a different order. I will generally ask you to check that editing has not changed your

meaning. The final say on wording and style is the editor's, but the final say on meaning is yours.

How do I get started?

Talk to us about your idea. We'll let you know if it's suitable and of interest to us, and help you set off in a direction that's likely to work for both of us.

We look forward to hearing from you further.

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