**Getting Published in Literary Magazines**

1. Avoid all contests at the backs of general interest magazines. These are scams, and they are not considered reputable.
2. Do research.
   1. Begin reading literary magazines. The ones you like the best are probably going to be the ones that like your work the best. You can find literary magazines at the library in the magazines and newspapers (periodicals) section. The literary magazines are usually not hard to spot. They don’t have celebrities on the cover, and they are usually named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (state, city, or geographic feature) Review / Quarterly / Journal. (Ex: *The Georgia Review, The Denver Quarterly, The Rio Grande Review, the Cold Mountain Review, the California Poetry Journal*). There are tons more that don’t have “Review” or “Quarterly” in the title, but this is a place to start. You can find more online. Most magazines will give you a free sample copy if you request it.
   2. Get a copy of *Poet’s Market* and *Novel and Short Story Writer’s Market* for the current year. These will give you a list of most of the markets and invaluable information about each:
      1. Where to send submissions
      2. How many submissions you should send at one time
      3. If they take simultaneous submissions
      4. Openness to submissions (if they accept beginners, experienced writers and some beginners, only experienced writers, only writers in a specialized area, only writers from a certain geographic region, no unsolicited submissions, no submissions from anyone currently). I would start out by submitting to only the first two categories.
      5. Advice on the type of writing they publish
      6. Pay
      7. Response time
      8. Percentage of submissions that actually get into the magazine

Beyond this, the books have wonderful articles and interviews by established writers, as well as a guidebook that will tell you exactly how to set up a cover letter and how to format your work for submission.

* 1. There are also some great websites now that are useful in finding literary magazines:
  2. Duotrope: [www.duotrope.com](http://www.duotrope.com)
  3. NewPages: <http://www.newpages.com/literary-magazines/>
  4. The Big List: <http://www.everywritersresource.com/Biglist.html>

1. For poetry, as a rule of thumb, polish at least four poems and send them out to each market you submit to. Each magazine wants to see that, despite the fact that you may be a beginning poet, you take poetry seriously. Sending them one poem suggests you only have one poem worth sending, which means you aren’t very serious about poetry.
2. In contrast, it’s usually best to send just one or two stories to a magazine (unless it specifies otherwise) at a time simply because stories are longer, and they require a bigger time investment for the reader.
3. Formatting:
   1. Use 8 ½ x 11, 20 lb, white typing paper.
   2. Use a standard font such as Times New Roman or Arial and use 12 pt. or 11 pt. font size.
   3. For poetry, single space within stanzas, double space between stanzas. For fiction, always double-space.
   4. For fiction, type your last name and page number on every page. (Do not include the cover letter in your numbering).
   5. For poetry, type your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and line count on upper right hand side of each page. Space down 4 lines and begin typing your work.
   6. For poetry, if your poem goes over one page, on the second page (and each consecutive page), in the top left hand corner, type your last name, space down and type the title of the work again, the page number, and “Continue stanza” or “New stanza” in parentheses.
4. Cover letter: Include a cover letter unless the market specifies otherwise. Be succinct and direct. Tell the editor your want to submit the following poems/short story. If you haven’t published before, don’t mention your publication credentials. Perhaps say something nice about their magazine to let them know you have read it. Don’t say “This is my first poetry submission” or “I have never published my work before.” Advice on cover letters: <http://www.essortment.com/all/writingacover_rvzf.htm>
5. Proofread, proofread, proofread! A typo that you may think is minor looks sloppy and negligent to an editor who reads twenty submissions a day as good as yours but with no typos or grammar errors.
6. In the envelope:
   1. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the appropriate postage.
   2. For poems, type each poem on a separate page.
   3. Put all of the poems together and fold them in thirds, like a business letter. Fold the cover letter in thirds too, separately and on top of the poems.
   4. Unless it is more than six pages, put the poems in a #10 envelope with a mailing address (the magazine’s) and a return address (yours).
   5. For stories, paper clip the pages of your story together and put the cover letter on top (outside the paper clip). Put all of the pages (not folded) in a 9 x 12 manila envelope.
7. Send out to at least ten to twenty magazines at a time. (Actually, starting out, I would send to twenty-five magazines at a time. As you get more publications, your success rate per the number you send out will get bigger, but as a beginner, getting one yes for every twenty-four no’s would be a huge success.)
8. Pay: Even if you get in, don’t expect to make any money. Only the big magazines pay real money to contributors, and even then, it isn’t that much. Most often, when your work gets in a magazine, you will get: one or two copies of the magazine, bragging rights, a nice publication line on your resume, a stepping stone to better or bigger publications (and perhaps, eventually, a book).