



# WRITER'S GUIDE

Everything you need to know  
about getting published in  
MY Voice Magazine

# FROM THE EDITORS

Bismillah Al-Rahman Al-Rahim

Assalam alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu,

We are very happy that you have decided to write for MY Voice Magazine! We put this set of guidelines together to share our vision, our criteria for writing, and what we look for in our writers. This information will help you get published in our magazine.

We look forward to reading your work soon!

Wassalam,

*Maariyah Baig*

Editor-in-Chief

*Komal Adeel*

Managing Editor

*Maha Siddiqui*

Assistant Editor

*Nargis Naqvi*

Mentor

# WRITING FOR MY VOICE

**At MY Voice, our aim is to empower the Muslim youth (with no limitations to non-Muslim youth who follow our guidelines) for success in this life and the after life. We seek to engage our readers spiritually, emotionally & intellectually.**

At MY Voice, we look for writers who can tackle topics relevant to the Muslim youth, aged 14-18. We want to enlighten their hearts and minds and keep them coming back for more.

Writing from an Islamic angle is always appreciated, however, this magazine is not used as a platform to aggressively preach religion. We encourage all potential writers to look at our previous issues. You can find them in our archives on our website.

How can we define good writing? We look for written work that is engaging, thought provoking, sincere, and relatable. Written work should be well researched, well thought out and contain all points of view. We expect our writers to submit well structured, grammatically correct writing. Always proof-read your own work and polish it before sending!

## **What we ARE looking for:**

- **Insightful, thought-provoking articles that teens can relate to in their daily life**
- **Interviews of amazing people who are changing the world, especially if they are youth**
- **Stories from around the world**

## **What we are NOT looking for:**

- **Articles enforcing or aggressively preaching religion**
- **Textbook-style writing or essays that you would submit to school**
- **Politically biased articles**
- **Your personal point of view as being the only point of view**

# SECTIONS

**What's your passion? What are you interested in writing? What do you want to share with our readers? MY Voice has a wide array of sections that we alternate between every time we publish an issue:**

## FEATURE (THEME BASED)

Every issue of MY Voice has a different theme. The centerfold spread contains the feature, which focuses on dissecting the theme. The feature article is usually assigned at our quarterly concept meetings, which all writers are welcome to attend.

**WORD COUNT: 650-800**

## OFF THE RUNWAY

Fashion articles can be reviews of the latest clothing trends or beauty products. You can also review your favorite store if you get their permission and discuss the idea with the managing editor. The articles should not encourage any kind of immodesty.

**Pictures: Pictures are needed for all products. Talk to us about a photographer we can supply if you live in the GTA.**

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## TALENTED STUDENTS

There are several students among us and around the world that have achieved success at a young age through hard work and special talents. These students inspire us to strive to accomplish our goals. This article could take the form of an interview or a narrative of how the student came to achieve their success.

**Pictures: You must provide a picture of the student's work and/or the students themselves.**

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## ROLE MODEL

In this section, you can choose a role model, past or present, that have made an impact on the world. Their character, personality and achievements should be something we can all learn from. They are not limited to Muslims but must reflect Islamic values through the work they have done.

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## HEAR ME OUT!

Do you have something to get off your chest? This is a platform where you can vent and voice your opinion on a topic that has been on your mind.

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## QURAN GEMS/HADITH GEMS

Some of the most important life lessons come from Quran and Hadith. Share a verse or story that has impacted you. When writing, make sure you do thorough research to back up your information and cite any sources that you use.

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## MY PERSPECTIVE

This section is a chance for you to discuss your opinions on current issues happening in Canada or around the world.

**Note: MY Voice does not support any specific political party or ideology and it should be made clear that the opinion being portrayed is the opinion of the writer.**

**WORD COUNT: 200-300**

## MY MEMOIR

This is where you can share a true story from your life that is worth telling. You can discuss a personal experience that has had a major impact on you as an individual or has changed how you view the world.

**Note: You can change the names of people and places to respect confidentiality.**

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## MY TORONTO

Toronto and the GTA are constantly alive with events, be it festivals, carnivals, conferences or shows. Write about any major event happening in the area. Highlight what the youth can expect from this event and how they can get involved. This can be in the form of an interview with an event coordinator or a preview based on research you have done on the event.

**Pictures: if possible, you can submit pictures of the event from previous years.**

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## FROM THE SIDELINES

Our sports articles cover many areas of the sporting world including reviews of major events, discussions on exemplary players and their achievements, or general sports updates. You should choose a topic that would be interesting to teens and is, most importantly up to date.

**Pictures: In some cases, specific pictures might be needed, and the writer must contact the managing editor.**

**WORD COUNT: 200-300**

## AROUND THE WORLD

Calling all international writers! Although MY Voice is a Canadian magazine, we would love to hear your take on our theme based on experiences living in your country.

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Calling all science geeks! This section is dedicated to sharing and examining any interesting scientific topics and discoveries. Articles can take on many formats, and do not necessarily need to be written in an academic style (you're allowed to have fun with it!) Keep in mind that our readership is largely high school students, so you should write at a scientific level that they would understand.

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## NOT IN THE NEWS

Passionate about a social justice issue that you feel is not being covered adequately by the media? Here is your chance to give it a voice. This could be a local issue or international issue, and can be about anything, from environment to politics. Note that this section is meant for factual, not opinionated, articles - you are informing the public about this issue and why it needs to be heard.

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## AN APPLE A DAY

A health article is always needed to encourage our young readers to take care of themselves and their health. You can write on any topic related to health (ex. food, exercise, stress management, etc.)

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## MY STYLE

MY Style is a lifestyle section, and topics includes beauty, trends, DIY, home decor, and more. This is your space to share cool products, fun craft ideas, beauty tips, and any other ways you spice up your life!

**Pictures: Be sure to include high definition non-copyright pictures for any article that requires them.**

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## LAUGH OUT LOUD

This section is for anyone with a comedic side and a sharp wit. Articles in this section take a lighthearted, witty approach to a topic. This is your chance to write something clever, entertaining, and funny, whether it be a commentary on a social phenomenon, a current event, or a personal experience.

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## CREATIVE WRITING

This section encourages our writers to get creative. Write a short story or submit your poetry. Make the readers smile, cry and laugh as they immerse themselves in your tales.

**WORD COUNT:**

**Short stories: 500-600 (a longer story can be broken into multiple sections published in consecutive issues)**

**Poetry: no minimum, maximum 400**

## KEEPIN' IT GREEN

Submit one or two easy tips on how to live a more environmentally conscious life. This section is not meant to discuss environmental issues as much as it is to promote green living.

**WORD COUNT: 200-300**

## MY NEIGHBOUR

MY Voice likes to connect with people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and religions. This section lends a chance for the writer to share the story of a friend, neighbour, or community member. This article could take the form of an interview or a narrative.

**Pictures: Please provide a picture of the subject with their permission.**

**WORD COUNT: 350-450**

## OTHER

**These articles, along with their pictures, should not exceed one page.**

### RECIPES

Submit a recipe of your choice. Include pictures as a visual aid.

### GAMES

Put together a fun page of games, crosswords, riddles, jokes and more.

# STYLE GUIDE

**When writing the names of Prophets you must include in English (PBUH).**

**When using Arabic words, please put the meaning in English in brackets, such as:**

Insha Allah (If Allah wills)

Subhan Allah (Praise and Glory to Allah)

Alhamdulillah (All praise is due to Allah)

**Please use the following spellings for the following Arabic words:**

Qur'aan

Assalamu'alaikum

Wa 'alaikum salaam

Alhamdulillah

Masha Allah

Insha Allah

subhanAllah

**If you have an idea for an article that you feel does not fit in a section, let us know!  
We are always open to new ideas.**

# PUBLICATION PROCESS

## So you want to write for MY Voice magazine and get published?

The first thing you need to do is decide which section you want to write for.

Once you've written your article, you can email your work to: [submissions@myvoicecanada.com](mailto:submissions@myvoicecanada.com) and our editorial team will get back to you as soon as they can. You stand a better chance of receiving a reply if you use the following format in your subject line: Section – Topic

Make sure your document has the following information on the top:

**Name – Phone number – email address – Year of education – Title – Word count**

**Make sure your article also has the following:**

- A catchy title
- A strong opening
- Paragraphs (with or without headers)
- Conclusion
- Optional: Sidebar material, further reading, recommended websites, author bio, pull quotes

**We look forward to receiving your best work and getting you published!**

# DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

<b>PUBLICATION OF ISSUE</b>	<b>JUNE 1</b>	<b>SEPT. 1</b>	<b>DEC. 1</b>	<b>MARCH 1</b>
<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>	<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>JUNE 10</b>	<b>SEPT. 10</b>	<b>DEC. 10</b>

# OUR CONTRACT

**In Islam we must never forget that our contracts of what we promise are written with Allah. When you submit to MY Voice Magazine, you are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:**

1. All articles are written by you without copying anyone's work or anything from other sources.
2. All photographs submitted will be with the consent of the persons in the photograph and will be your own original work unless otherwise stated.
3. If you have signed up to write an article at our concept meeting, and you cannot submit the article on time, you must give us 2 weeks notice before the final submission. If you "back out" two times in a row you will not be considered as a writer in the future.
4. You must be considered 'youth' in Canada to submit anything to MY Voice Magazine. Youth is anyone aged 12-29 yrs old.
5. Your work will be edited once it comes in. We will ask for your approval of the edits. If you do not approve of the changes, we cannot publish your work.
6. You will not publish your article anywhere until 3 months after it has been published in MY Voice Magazine.

# CONTACT US

So that's it: writing for MY Voice in a (rather large) nutshell. If you'd like more information or would like to send us a query or submit an article, email our Managing Editor at [submissions@myvoicecanada.com](mailto:submissions@myvoicecanada.com).

We look forward to welcoming you to the diverse and fabulous group of writers that all write for MY Voice!



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*happy writing!*