

Five Steps to Create a Winning Submission for Fault Zone

Presentation by Lisa Meltzer Penn and Audrey Kalman
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The Five Steps

1. Read the guidelines carefully
2. Come up with an idea
3. Write the story/poem
4. Edit the story
5. Proofread the story with guidelines in mind

SUBMIT!

- Use our online submission system: <https://cwc-peninsula.submittable.com>
- Contact Audrey for help: 650-303-2405; ackalman@gmail.com

When you are preparing

- When writing, think about
 - The theme: Ideas are everywhere!
 - Anecdote vs. story, whether fiction or nonfiction
 - Character development
 - Tension building/conflict
 - "Earning" your ending
 - Movement from beginning to end – does not have to be big
- We can't tell you how to write a poem. See poetry editor Dave Hirzel's tips handout.
- When editing
 - Read your story aloud
 - Get rid of passive voice/to-be constructions
 - Check for consistency
 - Review the story flow
 - Avoid needless scene-setting
 - Feel the rhythm
 - Share with another writer
- When proofing
 - Check the word count
 - Make sure your name is nowhere on story (not even in the header)
 - Check for typos
 - Check type style, spacing

Line editing tips

- Use the right word (don't use a \$10 word when a 10 cent word would do)
- Avoid clichés – the easy way to say something
- Eliminate extraneous language
- Watch for overuse of certain constructions
- Avoid repetitions (the same word in consecutive sentences or close proximity)

Resources (from Lisa & Audrey’s “Red Pen Secrets” presentation)

Learning the art of storytelling

Here are three of the most helpful resources for learning how to tell a story—by absorbing great stories. Best of all, they’re fun!

- Selected Shorts from Public Radio International – <http://www.selectedshorts.org>
- The New Yorker fiction podcast – www.newyorker.com/podcasts or subscribe on iTunes
- The Moth: True Stories Told Live – <http://themoth.org>

Helpful blogs

- Live Write Thrive Blog (CS Lakin) – www.livewritethrive.com; specifically focused on craft (particularly: <http://www.livewritethrive.com/category/the-fatal-flaws-of-fiction-writing>)
- Tuesday Tip (Kylie Betzner) – <https://mywriteofpassageblog.wordpress.com>; tips on Tuesdays
- Kirsten Lamb’s Blog (Kirsten Lamb) – <https://warriorwriters.wordpress.com>; writing and commentary
- Poets & Writers Daily prompts – <http://www.pw.org/writing-prompts-exercises>; daily writing prompts

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