

Gail Sidonie Sobat's Manuscript Submission Tips

for YouthWrite Write Stuff

1. Beware of any publisher who offers to publish your poem or story for money. Can you smell the stink? Something is rotten! Publishers pay *you* for your work, not the other way around.
2. That said, modest entry fees for a competition are not unusual, and may range from \$5 to \$50, depending on the calibre of the competition and the prizes offered.
3. Always check out the website of any publisher, magazine, or journal. Make sure that what you've written truly fits the "call for submission" requirements before you submit. READ the magazine or journal first to see if your work matches the style and content.
4. Follow submission guidelines meticulously. Editors are busy people. If your manuscript is messy, error-ridden, or incorrectly formatted, it's likely to be filed in "recycle" also known as "rejected."
5. Use an easily readable font. Size 12 - no bigger, no smaller. Double space. Use 1 to 1.5 inch margins on all four sides of the page. Print on white paper.
6. Don't send an electronic copy to a journal that ONLY accepts snailmail.
7. If you send via snailmail, you may be asked to include a SASE (stamped and self-addressed envelope) for return of your manuscript.
8. For Pete's sake, for the love of Mike, PROOFREAD!!!
9. Don't pester the editors. Read the submission guidelines for response times. Many publishers, unfortunately, only reply to those writers whose work they are intending to publish.
10. Never send original work or artwork. Make a copy or keep your originals in a cloud storage like Dropbox. Keep your originals safe at home, both electronic and hard copies!
11. If your work is rejected, take heart. There are other publishers out there. Do consider editorial suggestions, but remember you are the author of your own story. In the end, you are the arbiter of your own words. Tinker or rework and send out your manuscript again. And again. And again.