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# J. Legal Writing: A Quick Reference Guide to Publishing in the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute

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# Congratulations!

You finished writing that article!  
Your next step: submission.

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# Is J. Legal Writing the right journal for your piece?



Our mission is to encourage a broader understanding of legal writing and the teaching of it. We publish articles, empirical research, book reviews, and critical commentary from persons interested in the theory and the practice of legal writing, in composition, rhetoric and linguistic theory, in the design of courses and curricula, and in teaching and learning theory as applied in the classroom and practice.

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# What kind of pieces does J. Legal Writing Publish?

- Articles
- Essays
- Book Reviews



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# How do I submit an article?



- To submit an article to the Journal, all you need to do is provide two copies of it to the Editor-in-Chief. One copy should include your name; the other should be anonymous. There are three ways to submit it:
  - Via [email](#) to the Editor-in-Chief. For Volume 25, being published in March 2021, the Editor-in-Chief is Elizabeth Inglehart, [e-inglehart@law.northwestern.edu](mailto:e-inglehart@law.northwestern.edu).
  - On our website: [Contribute to the Journal](#).
  - Through [ExpressO](#).

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# Is there a deadline to submit articles?



No. The Journal accepts articles on a rolling basis, so there is no deadline to submit articles.

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# What happens after I submit?



We'll take it from there! After the Journal receives your submission, our Editorial Board will review it. You will receive a response within four weeks. Your response will be one of the following:

- Accept
  - Reject
  - Invitation to Resubmit
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## What kind of articles receive an acceptance?



Articles that are accepted are essentially ready to be published. The article will have a novel thesis that fits with the Journal's mission and its arguments will be fully supported. While some further support, elaboration, or editing may be necessary, the article does not need significant organizational or substantive changes.

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## What kind of articles receive a rejection?

An article will be rejected if it shows little to no promise of being publishable in our journal without significant editing. It could be that the topic is not a good fit, the thesis isn't novel, or the article lacks sufficient research support.





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## What kind of articles receive an invitation to resubmit?

- This is the response for an article that could be published in our journal in the future. This article may have a novel thesis, but might be underdeveloped in some areas.
  - The author will be given feedback on the article and will be encouraged to revise and resubmit and will be provided a time frame to do so. This means that the article will need to go through the submission process again before receiving an offer of publication and will also need to undergo the standard editing process.
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## What happens after my article is accepted?

Our Journal publishes one volume per year, in the spring. The editing work for all accepted articles begins in the fall, usually in September. Your article will undergo a substantive edit and a technical edit, and you will work with one member of the Editorial Board throughout the process. Most of the editing is completed by December, with the new issue being released online around March.

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## What about essays?



- For Volume 25, the theme is “Disruption.” Essays should be related to the long-term effects recent major societal disruptions have had on your approach to legal writing and your future teaching and scholarship.
  - Essays are generally 500-3000 words.
  - Essays are due by October 1, 2020. Email your submission to Brenda Tofte at [bltofte@gmail.com](mailto:bltofte@gmail.com).
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# What about book reviews?

- The theme for Volume 25 is also “Disruption.” Your submission should review 1) a book that has helped you better understand current societal disruptions in the context of your teaching and/or scholarship or 2) a legal writing textbook that you have found particularly responsive to current concerns.
- Book reviews are generally 1000-3000 words.
- Book review proposals are due by August 3, 2020; drafts are due by October 1, 2020. An accepted proposal is not a guarantee of publication, but an initial approval of the proposed book and topic.
- Submit proposals and completed book reviews to Lori Johnson at [Lori.Johnson@unlv.edu](mailto:Lori.Johnson@unlv.edu).



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# What if I have other questions?

Please visit our website, <http://www.legalwritingjournal.org/>.



A screenshot of the Legal Writing Journal website homepage. The browser address bar shows 'info@legalwritingjournal.org'. The website header includes the logo (a teal circle with a white document icon), the title 'Legal Writing Journal', and the tagline 'We are the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute'. Navigation links include 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contribute to the Journal', and 'Volumes'. There are also links for 'Editors' and 'Contact'. The main content area has a teal background with the text 'READ US ONLINE ON ANY DEVICE' and 'In your office or on the go... we provide many ways to connect!'. Below this text are icons for Twitter and Facebook with the text 'Find us on Twitter' and 'Find us on Facebook'. The bottom of the screenshot shows several devices (laptop, desktop monitor, tablet, smartphone) displaying the website's content.