

# IRON CITY MAGAZINE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*Iron City Magazine* is an online and print magazine devoted to writing and art from the prison world. It is our hope that through this creative platform, incarcerated writers and artists find value in their stories, fuel for personal growth, and pride in their accomplishments. Prisoners are, first and foremost, people. They own stories worthy of sharing.

We are currently accepting submissions of short fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, one-act plays, cartoons, comics, graphic stories, and art.

Postmark deadline: **Rolling**

Submissions are accepted through

- U.S. Mail: Ann Black/ICM, 4717 Valero Court, Laredo, Texas 78046
- Email: [submissions@ironcitymagazine.org](mailto:submissions@ironcitymagazine.org)

We accept both electronic and mail-in submissions. We also accept both typed and neatly handwritten submissions. There is no submission fee. Please include the cover sheet with all your work. Work without the cover sheet will not be considered.

For questions, contact us at [submissions@ironcitymagazine.org](mailto:submissions@ironcitymagazine.org) or the P.O. Box address listed above.

## Who Can Submit and What Can Be Submitted

- current/former prisoners: any topic
- current/former prison volunteers: ONLY topics related to mass incarceration
- family/friends of current/former prisoners: ONLY topics related to mass incarceration
- current/former prison staff: ONLY topics related to mass incarceration

## Payment/Gift for Accepted Work

Two contributor copies, prison policy permitting

Arizona State Prison policy, for instance, prohibits gifting or paying prisoners with copies. Families and friends may order copies via [ironcitymagazine.com](http://ironcitymagazine.com). Prison magazine policies vary by state.

## Guidelines for All Genres

We look for quality and originality. Send us writing and art that are compelling, well crafted, and attentive to detail. We do NOT accept previously published work. Please make handwriting legible. Capital and lowercase letters, punctuation, line breaks, and paragraph/stanza spacing must be distinct. (Please **DO NOT** submit work in **ALL CAPS**).

We DO NOT CONSIDER book-length works or pieces that include:

- names or other identifying information of any actual persons who are victims to or guilty of a crime, apart from the author
- nudity or graphically depicted violence
- detailed discussion of drug use

## Guidelines for Fiction

- All genres of fiction are considered
- Flash fiction and short stories are preferred, but stand-alone chapters from longer works

are considered

- **Submit 1 to 3 pieces**, up to 30 handwritten pages or 15 typed pages (4,000 words) TOTAL

### **Guidelines for Creative Nonfiction**

- Any true story is considered, but memoir (distinct personal episodes or memories) and personal essays are preferred
- Brief opinion pieces and argumentative essays are rarely considered
- Submissions must be factual and creative (use descriptive details [imagery], paint scenes, provide action, etc.)
- **Submit 1 to 3 pieces**, up to 30 handwritten pages or 15 typed pages (4,000 words) TOTAL

### **Guidelines for Poetry**

- All types of poetry are considered
- **Submit 1 to 5 poems**, not to exceed 10 pages TOTAL

### **Guidelines for Art**

- Physical (mail-in) and digital artwork\* are acceptable
- No portraits of celebrities
- **Submit 1-5 pieces ONLY**. If you are submitting multiple pieces, please make clear which art piece goes with which title, medium, and year created. Original art will be returned only with a self-addressed, stamped envelope or mailing tube.

\*Quality images (300+ DPI) in JPEG, PNG, or PDF formats are preferred over the original art, but we will still accept original pieces and attempt to return them as feasible.

### **Guidelines for One-Act Plays**

- **Submit 1 or 2 plays ONLY**. Each play may be up to 30 handwritten pages or 15 typed pages.

### **Guidelines for Cartoons/Comics/Graphic Stories**

- Both color and black-and-white graphics and cartoons/comics are considered
- **Submit up to 2 graphic stories (maximum of 15 pages each) and/or 3 one-page cartoons/comics**. Please bear in mind that our printed magazine page size is only 8.5 inches in height by 5.5 inches in width. Stories may be fiction or creative nonfiction/memoir. Please specify which on the first page of the consent form.

### **Disclaimer Regarding Editorial Process**

Minor edits to spelling, punctuation, or grammar may be needed. Because communication with prisoners is slow, these edits may be made without consulting the authors. Consent to these edits is voluntary, but not consenting may limit chances of acceptance for publication. Please state on the submission cover sheet whether you do or do not consent to such changes

To be considered for publication, this three-page coversheet **MUST** be completed in its entirety. The coversheet may also be accessed at [www.ironcitymagazine.org/submissions](http://www.ironcitymagazine.org/submissions).

If you cannot gain access to a copy of these sheets to fill out and include with your submission, **you MUST include a handwritten or typed letter with clear answers to ALL the requested information below.**

Your submission will **NOT** be considered if we do not receive all the requested information.

Fiction: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Creative Nonfiction: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Poetry: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Art+medium+date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

One-Act Play: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cartoon/Comic: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Graphic Stories: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark one of the options below:**

- I am currently incarcerated.
- I was previously incarcerated.
- I have never been incarcerated.\*

\*If you have never been incarcerated, do you fall under one of the groups listed under the **Who Can Submit and What Can Be Submitted** section on the first page of these guidelines? If yes, state which and provide a brief description of your relationship to the theme of incarceration. We publish work by those who have never been incarcerated ONLY when that work clearly highlights themes of incarceration.

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**Please be sure your handwriting is easy to read:**

Full legal name: \_\_\_\_\_

Prison number (if currently incarcerated): \_\_\_\_\_

How you wish your name to appear if chosen for publication: \_\_\_\_\_

Reliable, long-term address. If you are incarcerated, please also include your prison address.

Long-term address:

Prison address:

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Reliable email (if applicable):

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**Proofreading consent** (if left blank, consent will be assumed):

I do give my consent to *Iron City Magazine* to edit spelling, grammar, punctuation for publishing without prior approval from me.

I do NOT give my consent to *Iron City Magazine* to edit spelling, grammar, punctuation for publishing without prior approval from me.\*

\*Consent is voluntary, but because communication with prisoners is often slow, not consenting may limit chances of acceptance for publication in this year's issue.

**Editing Consent** (if left blank, consent will be assumed):

\_\_\_ I do give my consent to *Iron City Magazine* to make moderate edits pertaining to structure, style, or content.

\_\_\_ I do NOT give my consent to *Iron City Magazine* to make moderate edits pertaining to structure, style, or content.\*

Authors MUST note on the submission itself if any unusual style elements are to be kept so that the editors maintain the integrity of the piece.

\*Consent is voluntary, but because communication with prisoners is often slow, not consenting may limit chances of acceptance for publication in this year's issue.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (sign name) hereby attest that this is my original work. I am granting Iron City Magazine permission to print my submission if selected for the coming issue, but copyright remains mine. (If submitting electronically, you may simply type your name in the space.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for submitting to Iron City Magazine!

If your work is not chosen for this issue, please don't be discouraged from submitting in the future.