

2021 Northern Narratives Rules, Information, and FAQs

The Fargo Public Library is excited to announce that its regional writing project *Northern Narratives* is moving into its fifth year! The FPL is calling for submissions to be included in the new volume from January 15, 2021 through March 29, 2021. *Northern Narratives* is looking for original written work by authors from the region.

If you're interested in submitting your work to *Northern Narratives*, thank you! Please read the rules, information, and frequently asked questions thoroughly before sending us anything, as not adhering to the guidelines may disqualify you. If you have any further questions or concerns that are not answered below, you can reach the *Northern Narratives* team by emailing us at NorthernNarratives@fargolibrary.org.

The Rules

- The submissions are open to any North Dakota resident or resident of the Fargo Public Library's reciprocal service area in the Lake Agassiz Regional Library System. Reciprocal Minnesota counties include Polk, Clearwater, Norman, Mahnomen, Clay, Becker, and Wilkin. Citizens of Rothsay are also eligible as part of the LARL System.
- Participants must be 13 years of age or older.
- All entries must be uploaded using the [provided template](https://fargolibrary.wufoo.com/forms/northern-narratives-2021/) saved as a Word document (.doc or .docx) to WuFoo <https://fargolibrary.wufoo.com/forms/northern-narratives-2021/> by **March 29, 2021**.
- Materials submitted to *Northern Narratives* may not be submitted to any other publication until after selections are announced.
- Authors may submit no more than one piece of fiction, one piece of nonfiction, and two poems. For details on submission categories, see below. Don't forget to edit the heading in the submission template to let us know to which category the piece belongs.
- Submitted work must be original and previously unpublished, either in print or online. Work written in a personal journal and/or blog is still acceptable. By submitting to the project, you certify that you are the author and copyright holder of each piece you enter.
- All submissions must be edited and ready to print. Selections will not be edited by staff. Unedited works will be disqualified from the judging process.

- Our skies are big but our world is small, so please do not include any personal or identifying information in the body of your submission. Our judges cannot know whose works they're reading in order to make objective decisions. For example, a creative nonfiction piece describing all the members of your family would be disqualified. However, please put your name in the author line of the provided template; this information will be redacted.

Submission Categories

- **Short Story**
 - A fictional short story with a fully developed theme 1,500 to 6,000 words long.
 - Submitted stories must be complete. Chapters or excerpts from novels are not acceptable.
 - An author may only submit **one** piece of fiction.
- **Essay**
 - Either 1) a piece of creative nonfiction that is a short story describing a real event, or 2) an essay or commentary on a particular subject that is of local or regional interest.
 - A nonfiction submission must be 1,000 to 2,500 words long.
 - An author may only submit **one** essay.
- **Poetry**
 - Poems must be 750 words or less each.
 - Almost anything goes. Please be aware that concrete poetry will have to fit the journal template.
 - An author may only submit **two** poems.

FAQs

Q. What is *Northern Narratives*?

A. *Northern Narratives* is a book published by the Fargo Public Library to highlight and preserve the writing of local and regional authors. This project aims to promote the sharing of our stories and the creation of content that is meaningful to our community.

Q. How will submissions be selected for publication?

A. There will be a juried selection for inclusion in the volume. Submissions will be judged by a selection committee on voice, style, cohesiveness, and ability to engage readers. The selection committee reserves the right to withhold publication at their discretion. All decisions are final.

Q. What is the deadline for submissions?

A. All submissions must be received by **March 29, 2021**.

Q. How should submissions be made?

A. Submissions must be uploaded to WuFoo at <https://fargolibrary.wufoo.com/forms/northern-narratives-2021/> using the provided template saved as a Word document (.doc or .docx). Short stories, essays, and poetry can be submitted at the same time on WuFoo, but must be uploaded as separate files. Each work must be fully edited. Please read the rules thoroughly before submitting to avoid disqualification.

Q. How does the template work?

A. The template can be found on [our webpage](#). When you open the file you will see words already in place for subject heading, title, and author. As the body of the work you will see nonsense Latin known as “lorem ipsum.” You will also see three asterisks that function as the template section break. In place of the subject heading, you should put Essay, Poetry, or Short Story. Insert your piece’s title. In the author byline put your name exactly as you want it to appear in print should your work be selected. Replace the lorem ipsum with your own writing.

If you are copy-pasting from another document, make sure to paste using destination formatting. If your piece has section breaks, paste one section at a time so you can also paste in the three asterisk section break provided. Do not change the font, sizing, margins, indentation, spacing, or section break.

When you save, make sure it is still a Word file (.doc or .docx). This will ensure that we have the ability to access your submission.

Q. Should I include a Works Cited for my Essay?

A. Yes, if your essay includes research and/or quotes that necessitate having a Works Cited, please include it as part of your submission.

Q. Since submitting, I have revised and updated my piece. May I resubmit it?

No. As stated in the rules, “All submissions must be edited and ready to print.” Also upon submitting through WuFoo you are required to check a box indicating “Yes, everything is perfect.” Therefore when we receive submissions we take you at your word that you are happy with your work. Please do not submit your writing if it is not ready because subsequent changes cannot be made.

Q. May I submit fanfiction?

A. If your piece includes characters or settings from properties still under copyright, no you may not submit it. If your piece includes characters or settings from properties no longer subject to copyright, that is fine.

To put it another way, we can't accept *Harry Potter* fanfiction. But if you decide to write a new twist on *Romeo and Juliet*, go for it.

Q. May I submit a chapter or excerpt from a novel or other larger work?

A. No, pieces must be complete within the set word limit of each category.

Q. May I submit a play or script?

A. No.

Q. When will I know if my story, essay, or poem has been selected for publication?

A. Authors will be notified in late spring or early summer. We promise you as soon as we know, you will know.

To that end, if your contact information changes after submitting please tell us as soon as possible so we can reach you when necessary.

Q. If published, who owns the copyright to my work?

A. After selected works are announced, all rights revert to the author. Materials may be submitted to other publishers at that time.

Selected submissions will be subject to "first rights" copyright. Any future publication will require the attribution: "First published in Northern Narratives – Fargo Public Library."

Q. Will I get a royalty check if my work is published?

A. No. The Fargo Public Library is a non-profit organization and will not make any money off the sale of *Northern Narratives*. Likewise, the Friends of the Fargo Public Library will not make a profit as the books will be sold at cost.

Q. How will *Northern Narratives* be distributed?

A. A full .pdf of the journal can be found online for free once printing is completed. In addition, bound copies of the 2021 *Northern Narratives* project will be available for purchase through the Friends of the Fargo Public Library.

Authors published in the journal will be gifted a free bound copy of *Northern Narratives* 2021 at the Northern Narratives 2021 Author Celebration Event. The NN 2021 Celebration Event date will be announced after selections are made.

There will also be bound copies of *Northern Narratives* entered into the Fargo Public Library's collection, which library patrons can borrow.