

BOTH/AND Submission Guidelines

The easy story about growing up between cultures is that you're torn, caught between two or more worlds, but never quite at home. But that's not the story we're interested in, and it's not the one most of us actually live. The truth is messier and richer: both cultures, more than one language, a handful of instincts about how to greet someone or how to grieve, all held together at once. That doubleness isn't a deficit to explain away. It's the raw material of the work we want to publish: the jokes that only work in two or more languages at once, the homesickness for a place you can't fully claim, the strange calm of knowing how to become a stranger and then, somehow, to unbecome one. Again and again. This is where you express and explore the mixed feelings about home, culture, and, more so, identity.

Who Can Submit

You are eligible to submit if both of the following apply:

- You're a middle school student, high school student, or a first- or second-year college student.
- You currently attend school in a country different from your country of birth, **or** you are preparing to attend an international middle school, high school, or college.

What to Include With Your Submission

Each submission must include:

- **A title** (required for all work).
- **A short bio** (required, 2–3 sentences): your grade or year, where you were born, where you currently live or are headed, and whatever feels unique about your experience. This gives readers context. You can write it playfully if you want. It doesn't need to sound like a resume.
- **An introduction to your piece** (optional, 2–3 sentences) offering background or context about the work, its purpose, or any information that helps readers engage with it.

For written work (poetry, fiction, nonfiction/creative writing), include your bio and introduction in the same Google Doc as your piece. For visual art and photography (drawing, painting, mixed media, photography, collage), please upload your bio and introduction as a separate document in the same Google Drive folder as your work. For video and short films, please paste your unlisted YouTube or Vimeo link in the same Google Doc as your bio and introduction.

Format: Times New Roman or Arial, 12-point, double-spaced.

Works we accept

Personal Essay / Creative Nonfiction

- a. Up to 2,500 words

Poetry

- a. Submit up to 5 poems per submission; there is no individual length limit.

Fiction

- a. Up to 3,000 words

Visual Art

- a. Drawing, painting, mixed media, collage
 - i. Files must be JPG or PNG, at least 1500 pixels on the longest side, and under 15MB each.
 - ii. Submit up to 5 pieces per submission.

- b. Photography

- i. Files must be JPG, at least 1500 pixels on the longest side, and under 15MB each.
- ii. Submit up to 8 photos per submission, either as single images or a short series.

Short Video / Film

- a. Videos may be up to 5 minutes in length.
- b. Submit your video as an unlisted YouTube or Vimeo link. Please do not send raw video files.

Languages

Your work may be entirely in English or include words, phrases, or sentences from other languages if needed, especially if the piece is bridging two or more cultures, or explaining or clarifying something that only makes sense in one language and not another. You won't be penalized for writing in more than English.

Keep in mind that most readers are English-speaking or multilingual with English proficiency. To reach the widest, broadest audience, write primarily in English and provide brief explanations for non-English words or phrases, using parenthetical translations or footnotes as needed for other languages.

If your piece intentionally leaves some content untranslated as an artistic choice, this is acceptable for the published version.

However, for submission, please include the explanations regardless, even if you plan to delete them later. Editors need them to understand and evaluate your work fully. If your piece is accepted, you can decide whether to keep the explanations in or leave them out of the final version.

Submit

To submit, please complete the form on our website. <https://www.bothandjournal.com/submissions>
You will be asked to provide a link to your file. Please upload your work to Google Drive in advance. For written work, videos, and short films, paste a Google Doc link and set sharing to 'Anyone with the link can comment.' For art or photography, provide a Google Drive folder or link set to 'Anyone with the link can view.'

What happens after you submit

Both/And publishes four seasonal issues each year: April, July, October, and January. We review submissions year-round on a rolling basis. You can expect a response within one to two months. If your piece is accepted, it will be placed in the next available issue.

Rights & Simultaneous submissions

You retain full ownership of your work. Publishing with Both/And grants us first online publication rights only; all other rights remain with you.

Simultaneous submissions are permitted. If your piece is accepted elsewhere, please notify us immediately so we can withdraw it.

If you are under 18 and your piece is accepted, we will request confirmation from your parent or guardian before publication, in accordance with privacy laws and data protection requirements.

For previously published work, please contact us first at info.bothand@gmail.com.