



North Texas Review

Editing Guidelines

I. Art

Sorting Guidelines:

- **Originality:** Look for unique perspectives, techniques, or subjects. Avoid clichés or overdone concepts.
- **Technical Skill:** Evaluate the artist's use of color, composition, line work, and other technical elements.
- **Theme Alignment:** When applicable, assess how well the piece aligns with NTR's overall theme or message.
- **Emotional Impact:** Consider any emotional or intellectual impact of the artwork.
- **Variety:** Aim for a mix of styles (abstract, realism, digital, traditional, etc.) to ensure diversity in the journal.

Editing Guidelines:

- **Image Quality:** Ensure the image submitted is high resolution and suitable for print.
- **Color Correction:** If needed, adjust colors to ensure they translate well to print.
- **Cropping and Layout:** Collaborate with the student artist to crop or layout the image in a way that best fits NTR's format.
- **Artist Statements:** Request a brief artist statement if not provided, to accompany the artwork in the journal. Only ask authors **after** final acceptances have been sent out.

2. Music

Sorting Guidelines:

- **Originality:** Look for innovative compositions that stand out. Avoid pieces that mimic existing works too closely.
- **Technical Skill:** Evaluate the use of instruments, vocals, and recording quality.
- **Emotional/Conceptual Depth:** Consider the emotional impact or conceptual depth of the piece.

- **Diversity of Genre:** Aim to include a range of musical genres, from classical to contemporary, to branch out as much as we can and open up our target audience.

Editing Guidelines:

- **Audio Quality:** Make sure the audio file is of high quality and suitable for streaming or download.
 - **Length:** Consider the length of the piece and whether it fits within NTR's format (e.g., limit overly long compositions). **NOTE: 3-6 min**
 - **File Format:** Standardize file formats (e.g., MP3, WAV) for consistency.
 - **Accompanying Text:** Request liner notes or a brief description of the piece to provide context to the listeners.
-

3. Nonfiction

Sorting Guidelines:

- **Originality and Voice:** Look for strong, distinctive voices and original perspectives on familiar or new topics.
- **Relevance:** Assess how well the piece speaks to contemporary issues or timeless themes.
- **Clarity and Coherence:** Ensure the piece is well-organized and easy to follow.
- **Emotional/Intellectual Engagement:** Consider the extent to which the piece engages the reader emotionally/intellectually.
- **Variety:** Include a mix of personal essays, memoirs, reportage, etc., to provide a broad range of nonfiction styles.

Editing Guidelines:

- **Fact-Checking:** Verify any factual claims or references made in the piece.
 - **Structure:** Work on tightening the structure, improving transitions, and ensuring logical flow.
 - **Tone and Style:** Maintain the author's voice while ensuring clarity and readability.
 - **Grammar and Syntax:** Correct any grammatical errors, awkward sentences, or inconsistencies.
-

4. Fiction

Sorting Guidelines:

- **Originality:** Look for fresh takes on familiar genres or entirely new ideas. Avoid predictable plots or overused tropes.
- **Character Development:** Assess how well characters are developed and whether they evoke empathy or interest.

- **Plot and Pacing:** Make sure the story is well-paced and the plot is compelling/coherent.
- **Language and Style:** Look for strong, expressive language and a distinctive narrative style.
- **Variety:** Include a range of genres (literary fiction, speculative fiction, etc.) and lengths (flash fiction, short stories).

Editing Guidelines:

- **Plot Consistency:** Make sure there are no plot holes or unresolved threads.
 - **Character Consistency:** Make sure that characters act consistently with their established traits.
 - **Pacing:** Tighten sections that drag or expand areas that feel rushed.
 - **Dialogue:** Make sure dialogue is natural and contributes to character development or plot advancement.
 - **Grammar and Style:** Correct any grammatical errors, awkward sentences, or inconsistencies.
-

5. Poetry

Sorting Guidelines:

- **Originality and Voice:** Look for unique voices and fresh approaches to form, language, and imagery.
- **Emotion and Imagery:** Consider any emotional impact and the use of vivid, expressive imagery.
- **Form and Structure:** Take a look at the poem's form and structure, whether traditional or experimental, and evaluate how well it serves the content.
- **Language:** Pay attention to the use of language, including word choice, sound, rhythm, and metaphor.
- **Variety:** Include a mix of forms (sonnets, free verse, etc.) and styles to provide a diverse poetry section.

Editing Guidelines:

- **Line Breaks and Punctuation:** Work with the poet to refine line breaks and punctuation for maximum impact.
 - **Imagery and Language:** Suggest improvements to enhance imagery, clarity, or emotional impact, while preserving the poet's voice.
 - **Consistency:** Ensure consistency in tense, perspective, and tone throughout the poem.
 - **Conciseness:** Help the poet tighten the poem by removing unnecessary words or lines without losing meaning or impact.
 - **Grammar and Syntax:** Though poetry is subjective with grammar, make sure any deviations are intentional and effective - if you really connect with a piece/feel it's fit for publication, make a note to discuss it with the author if they are selected to workshop.
-

General Tips for All Genre Teams:

- **Consensus-Building:** Discuss and debate pieces with your teams to reach a well-rounded consensus on which pieces to include in this year's journal.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Work on selecting pieces from a diverse range of voices, backgrounds, and perspectives to emphasize NTR's reach and inclusion.
- **Feedback to Contributors:** On pieces you feel should be accepted, make notes to provide constructive feedback to our student contributors so you can discuss these with the pool of students selected to workshop their piece. Keep in mind not every piece you comment on/approve will be selected for workshop and final publication.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Try to be mindful of pieces that might include sensitive topics or content that could be considered offensive, and discuss these with your team and make note of it to our copy chief/managing editor/editor-in-chief before making decisions.

Additional notes:

- Double and TRIPLE check the stories to make sure you are sending the correct acceptances and rejections
- Once stories are accepted, proofread for errors and improvements following the editing guidelines above.