

Voices Submission Criteria & Guidelines

About Voices

Voices has been a project of the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association's Women's Centre since 1995, publishing an annual anthology of student work. Over the years, *Voices* has been a space for reflection, resistance, and celebration — where students share their beliefs, emotions, and experiences through art and writing.

As we continue to grow, *Voices* now lives both as a print anthology (published annually during International Women's Week) and a digital platform sharing stories throughout the year.

We invite submissions that challenge, comfort, and inspire — pieces that encourage readers to see the world through diverse, intersectional perspectives.

Who Can Submit

Submissions are open to all **current University of Waterloo students** (undergraduate or graduate).

What You Can Submit

We welcome a variety of creative work, including but not limited to:

1. Written Work

- Poetry
- Short stories
- Personal essays
- Creative nonfiction

Submission requirements:

- Creator/Author's name
- Waterloo email address
- WatIAM username
- Title of work

- Text (in a PDF format)
- Brief author biography (2–4 sentences)

Word limit: 300 words maximum

File naming convention: Lastname_Firstname_TitleOfWork.docx or .pdf

Note: You may choose to have your work published anonymously. Please indicate this during submission.

2. Visual Art & Photography

- Paintings, illustrations, and digital art
- Photography and mixed media

Submission requirements:

- Creator/Artist's name
- Waterloo email address
- WatIAM username
- Title of work
- High-resolution image (JPG or PNG, 300 dpi)
- Maximum file size: 10 MB
- Description of work (1–3 sentences)
- Brief creator biography (2–4 sentences)
- Descriptive alt text or captions for accessibility

File naming convention: Lastname_Firstname_TitleOfArtwork.jpg or .png

Note: Anonymous submissions are welcome. Please indicate this during submission.

Theme & Focus

While *Voices* accepts work on any topic, we especially encourage pieces that:

- Reflect on identity, intersectionality, and lived experience
- Explore social justice, gender, and equity themes
- Celebrate resilience, creativity, and community
- Engage with discomfort, growth, and learning

Submission Timeline

- **Deadline:** January 6, 2026, 11:59 PM EST
- **Publication:** March 6, 2026 (print and digital platforms)

How to Submit

Submit your work using the [Voices Submission Form](#).

If you have any questions, reach out to us at: womenscentre@wusa.ca

For technical questions about file submission, formatting, or accessibility, contact the same email.

Follow the **Women's Centre** for updates:

- Instagram: [@uwwomenscentre](#)

Selection Process

All submissions are reviewed by the *Voices* editorial team. Selected works will appear either:

- In the **annual print anthology** (released during International Women's Week), or
- On the **Voices digital platform** throughout the year.

Contributors will be contacted before publication.

Important Notes

- Multiple submissions are welcome (up to 2 written and 2 visual works per person).
- Ensure that all work is original and that you hold the right to publish it.
- *Voices* reserves the right to make light edits for grammar, clarity, or formatting while maintaining artistic integrity.
- Visual submissions may be subject to minor adjustments (e.g., lighting or colour correction) to ensure consistency and print/digital quality. These edits will not alter the content or intent of the original work but may result in slight colour variations from the original piece.

- By submitting, you grant *Voices* permission to publish your work in print and digital formats.

Accessibility Considerations

- Include descriptive alt text for images or captions for digital content.
- Ensure submissions are accessible wherever possible, to provide an inclusive experience for all readers.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Voices is a celebration of student creativity, vulnerability, and strength.

We encourage you to open up, challenge yourself, and share your story with the campus community.