

## How to Write for *Citizen*

We're so glad you're interested in writing for *Citizen* magazine. Before we go any further, please take a moment to read this to make sure you know what we're about and what we're trying to accomplish.

*Citizen* was founded in 1987 as a monthly print magazine published by Focus on the Family, a pro-family Christian ministry currently headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo. Its emphasis in the early days was to galvanize grassroots activists to make a difference in the realm of federal, state and local public policy on issues that immediately concern the family in the culture—such as marriage, education, religious liberty and the sanctity of human life.

Those are still the core issues that we cover, but in recent years, we have expanded our view of what shapes our society with the understanding that popular culture tends to shape people's views, while people's views tend to shape public policy. If Christians want to make a difference in the culture, they must take both into account—and that's what we strive to help our readers do.

For the last decade, our working agenda has been “hope, how-to and hot national topics.” We aim to provide hope by telling the stories of people and organizations that have successfully made a difference in their sphere of influence, and how they did it, so others can follow their example. When it comes to hot national topics, we provide an in-depth perspective from a Christian point of view that readers can't get from the mainstream media.

Please look over our writer's guidelines below. We welcome new writers, but strongly prefer to work with those who have previous journalism or writing experience. **Please note that we do not use first-person voice for feature stories in the magazine; columns are supplied by staff members.**

Thanks again for your interest. We look forward to working with you.

**To pitch a story or submit a feature for *Citizen* magazine,** contact us at [citizeneditor@focusonthefamily.com](mailto:citizeneditor@focusonthefamily.com).

**Queries:** For pitches, include a summary describing the article idea, an approximate length and the date it could be finished. Please note that we have a long lead time; approximately eight weeks pass between the planning of an issue and the time it reaches readers. If you are a published journalist, please include three samples of your work. Email submissions are strongly preferred; please refrain from phone or fax pitches.

**Submissions:** We prefer submissions as Word attachments. Your name and a one-to two-sentence bio should be included with it. (Example: *Mary Smith is a freelance journalist in Ohio.*) Please double-check all grammar, spelling and punctuation before submitting; **we use AP style**. All articles will be edited for length, grammar, content, style and tone.

**Note:** We suggest you check out several previous stories that we've run before submitting an article query. Our content is archived at [citizenmagazine.com](http://citizenmagazine.com), or you can purchase an iPad subscription through the iTunes newsstand.

Once a story assignment is made, we will send you a contract with deadline, copyright and payment details. New writers will also receive a W9 form to fill out and return with their first assignment.

**Art:** Because much of what we cover has been ignored by the mainstream media, we rely heavily on the sources we interview to help supply relevant photos to illustrate the stories we tell. Please make a point of asking the sources you interview for photos and the photographers' names; we require prior written permission from all photographers before reprinting their work with credit given.