

Media Kit

Dennis James Sweeney

Author of

How to Submit



Contact:

FAUZIA BURKE

fsburke@fsbassociates.com

(760) 585-2252

FSB Associates

6965 El Camino Real, Ste 105-108

Carlsbad CA 92009

fsbassociates.com

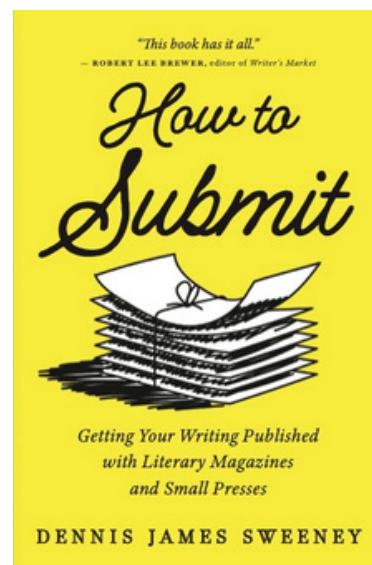
Book Announcement

How to Submit:

Getting Your Writing Published with Literary Magazines and Small Presses

How to Submit: Getting Your Writing Published with Literary Magazines and Small Presses (New World Library; February 2025; Paperback) is a groundbreaking guide designed to demystify the submission process for writers looking to publish with literary magazines and small presses. The first of its kind, Sweeney's book is packed with practical strategies and serves as a call to embrace submitting as an energizing journey.

How to Submit is a foundational guide for writers looking to build both a publishing career and a sense of literary community. In clear, encouraging language, Sweeney provides insights into every aspect of the submission process:



- **Building a Submission Strategy:** Learn how to choose where to submit and whether to enter contests.
- **Crafting a Standout Cover Letter:** Get tips on creating a professional cover letter and turning rejections into learning experiences.
- **Managing Wait Times and Payment:** Understand timelines and financial considerations for publishing with small presses.
- **Building Connections:** Discover ways to make meaningful connections with editors and fellow writers and find community in the publishing process.

Sweeney offers a realistic yet inspiring roadmap, showing writers how submitting their work can give back to their writing while fueling their careers. Whether you're just starting your writing journey or looking to deepen your engagement with publishing, *How to Submit* provides the essential guidance for a rewarding publication journey.

Please let me know if you'd like a copy of the book or would like to interview Dennis.

Thank you, Fauzia Burke



Dennis James Sweeney

Dennis James Sweeney is a cross-genre writer and poet whose work spans fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. He is the author of several acclaimed books, including *In the Antarctic Circle*, which won the Autumn House Rising Writer Prize and was featured as a Debut Poetry Book of 2021 in *Poets & Writers*. His second book, *You're the Woods Too*, became a Small Press Distribution bestseller and was a Deborah Tall Lyric Essay Prize finalist. His most recent work, the *Rolodex Happenings* won the Stillhouse Press Novella Prize. Sweeney has also published several chapbooks that further showcase his diverse talent.

Sweeney's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Ecotone*, *The Southern Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Witness*, which often explores themes of nature, identity, and collective experience. His commitment to the literary community is evident in his previous role as a Small Press Editor at Entropy, where he curated the popular "Where to Submit" list, a widely used resource for writers. He also served as Assistant Editor at *Denver Quarterly*, bringing his expertise to emerging and established voices.

A recipient of residencies from the Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts, I-Park Foundation, and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sweeney has received a Fulbright grant to Malta and holds an MFA from Oregon State University and a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Denver. He currently teaches at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he lives.

With his new book, ***How to Submit: Getting Your Writing Published with Literary Magazines and Small Presses***, Sweeney offers an invaluable guide for writers eager to build a literary career on their own terms. Drawing from his extensive experience as a writer, editor, and educator, Sweeney presents a supportive, community-driven approach to publishing that resonates with writers across genres and experience levels. His new book encourages writers to find joy in the submission process, turning what can feel like an isolated activity into an empowering act of creativity and connection.

Dennis James Sweeney

Interview Intro

The Author prefers to be called Dennis in interviews.

Dennis James Sweeney is the author of *How to Submit: Getting Your Writing Published with Literary Magazines and Small Presses* from the New World Library. He has an MFA from Oregon State University and a PhD from the University of Denver. Originally from Cincinnati, he lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he teaches Creative Writing at Amherst College.

Website: dennisjamesweeney.com

[Instagram](#)

[Substack](#)

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Suggested Questions

1. What inspired you to write *How to Submit*, and how does it stand out from other publishing guides?
2. How does *How to Submit* encourage writers to view submitting work as a community-building activity?
3. You emphasize the value of small presses and literary magazines. Why do you think they're so important in today's publishing landscape?
4. What role does persistence play in the journey of submitting work?
5. How should writers decide which magazines or presses are the right fit for their work?
6. What advice do you have for writers dealing with rejection in the submission process?
7. Can you share an experience from your career where submitting your work helped you grow as a writer?
8. What makes a cover letter stand out to an editor, and what tips would you offer for crafting one?
9. You've described the submission process as "empowering" for writers. How can writers learn to embrace it?
10. How does your background as an editor shape your perspective on submitting work?
11. In a world where AI-generated content is more prevalent, how does *How to Submit* advocate for the human voice in publishing?
12. How can new writers build a community in the small press and literary magazine landscape?
13. What are some practical steps writers can take to make the process of submitting less daunting?
14. What are your thoughts on the importance of prestige in publishing with specific magazines or presses?
15. How did your experience with Entropy's "Where to Submit" list influence your approach to writing this book?
16. Can you discuss the role of residencies and grants in your writing career?
17. How can writers stay motivated during long waiting periods for responses?
18. What advice would you give a writer starting their submission journey today?



Endorsements

“This book has it all.”

—Robert Lee Brewer, editor of *Writer's Market* and senior editor of *Writer's Digest*

“An essential and encouraging tool for anyone who wants their words to find a home in the world, and Sweeney’s warmth and generosity shine through.”

—Ruth Dickey, Author of *Our hollowness sings* and Executive Director of the National Book Foundation

“This isn't just a book about submitting and publishing, it's a book that speaks to the very heart of what it means to write.”

—Grant Faulkner, Executive Producer of America's Next Great Author Podcast

“A perceptive, inspiring, and practical guide that is also a joyful celebration of one of our best human attributes: the desire to create and share art.”

—Jennifer Acker, Author of *The Limits of the World* and Editor in Chief of *The Common*

“A clear, practical, and caring guide to how writers, small presses, and literary magazines may find and sustain one another.”

—Hilary Plum, Author of *State Champ*, Open Prose Series Editor at Rescue Press, and Co-Host of Index for Continuance Podcast

“Sweeney's vibrant handbook will tell you how to get published, yes, but even more importantly, how to get involved.”

—Kathleen Rooney, author of *Where Are the Snows*, editor of Rose Metal Press, and founding member of Poems While You Wait

“Chock-full of information, practical advice, and relevant anecdotes.”

—Dariel Suarez, author of *The Playwright's House* and Artistic Director at GrubStreet



Excerpt

There are many stages to finding your readers and your community. This book is meant to be helpful during each of them, from the writer who's writing their first stories, essays, or poems to the writer who's been submitting for years.

Here are a few things How to Submit can do for you:

- If you are a beginning writer, it will help you gain a sense of the publishing landscape you are writing within. As Matthew Salesses argues in *Craft in the Real World*, understanding your audience is essential to the choices you make as a writer. Knowing who you are writing for has everything to do with what and how you write. This book will help you envision your audience, providing an introduction to the landscape of literary magazine and small press publishing as well as advice on how to find the communities that resonate with you as a writer.
- If you have stories, essays, or poems you are ready to send out, this book will help you decide how to submit them. Have you written something you like and want to share with the world, but you don't quite know how to seek publication? This book will help you take the difficult step from finished piece to published piece. It will also encourage you to enjoy the process of submitting. Sending out your work should energize your writing, not take energy away from it.
- If you have been submitting for a while but still have questions, this book will support your ongoing work toward publication. You're not alone if you've been submitting for a while but still have uncertainties and questions. When you're engaged in submitting your work, support and conversation are essential. My hope is that this book will be a resource for all of us who wonder, "Am I doing it right? How do you submit your writing?"
- If you are trying to remind yourself why to send out your writing, this book will encourage you to continue. How to Submit is not just a practical guide. It is also an argument for the vitality, excitement, and expansiveness of submitting your work. Submitting can be a grind at times, so it's essential to remember the passion that editors, writers, and readers put into cocreating the literary world. This book is meant to remind you of this passion and to allow it to inspire you.
- If you already have an understanding of the large press publishing world, this book will expand your horizons. There are plenty of good books about how to get an agent and a book deal. This book talks about publishing less as a "deal" than as an act of community and connection. I wrote How to Submit to give back to the writing communities that have supported me, doing my part to illuminate the importance of small presses and literary magazines in the literary landscape as a whole.

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