

# Liberty

## Writer's Guide

**Greetings** — and thank you for your interest in *Liberty*. The editors of *Liberty* are always looking for good writing of particular interest to libertarians, and we hope that you will enjoy writing for our readers as much as we enjoy publishing for them.

Before you submit writing for publication in *Liberty*, you should read at least one issue of our magazine so that you have a general idea of the kind of writing we publish. Select articles from past issues are available on our website, and back issues can be purchased for \$5 postpaid. Call or write us to request one.

Of course, we are always looking for novelty, so don't let whatever limitations you may perceive in our magazine discourage you: if you have an idea that you find interesting, perhaps we will find it interesting also.

### Inquire Before You Submit

Sending a letter inquiring about your proposed submission is a good idea if you are considering writing an article or review especially for publication in *Liberty*. We will advise you of our interest in your proposal. This can save you considerable work, as we may already have someone writing on the same subject, or may simply be uninterested.

The best way to contact us is by e-mail, but you may use U.S. Mail as well. Please do not call the editorial offices with manuscript proposals.

### About Submissions

We publish monthly, and generally need material in hand one month before we print if we are to consider it for any given issue, though it is always better to get it to us earlier. Submissions sent "over the transom" (without assignment or query) or close to the deadline are unlikely to be published in the next issue.

We edit submissions chiefly for spelling, grammar, and style. If our changes appear to affect your point of view or opinion, we will contact you. If you have any problems with this practice, note whatever limitations you wish to impose on us up front — but remember that limitations placed may also limit speed and likelihood of publication.

We try to get back to authors as quickly as possible, though occasionally the response time can run into weeks or even months. The response time depends on how many editors must handle your submission or query, the time-sensitivity of your submission, and our place in the editorial cycle, among other factors.

If you require a response by a particular date, be sure to advise us when you submit. Be aware, however, that limitations on the time we have for consideration sometimes result in our rejecting a piece because of insufficient time for review and discussion of it by our editors.

Except under extraordinary circumstances, we follow the same policy as most other periodical publishers: we do *not* consider submissions simultaneously submitted elsewhere. If you are submitting your manuscript elsewhere, please advise in the cover letter.

### Preparation of Manuscripts

We strongly prefer electronic submission of manuscripts. Electronic submissions are easier to distribute to editors, evaluate, and edit. Files should be submitted in rich text format, identifiable by the ".rtf" file extension. All major word processors can read and save RTF files.

Typescripts submitted by postal mail will be considered, but

may not be returned even if a SASE is enclosed.

Write at the beginning of the manuscript your name, postal address, phone number, and e-mail address. Include a short, one to two sentence biographical note about yourself (see "Regarding Biographies," below). If your manuscript is longer than 1,000 words, please include in your cover letter a brief summary of the article's thesis, and of your arguments or evidence.

E-mail submissions should be sent to:

submissions@libertyunbound.com

Postal submissions should be mailed to:

*Liberty* Submissions

P.O. Box 20527

Reno, NV 89515

### Departments

Most issues of *Liberty* consist of three sections: Reflections, Features, and Reviews.

#### Reflections

Reflections are short pieces on almost any topic. Most reflections are written by regular contributors, but submissions are welcome from anyone with something interesting to say. "Reflections" is unique to *Liberty* and is many readers' favorite section: anything goes, and the character of the section varies quite a bit from issue to issue. Reflections have no minimum size — witty one-liners are welcome — but should not much exceed 500 words.

If you submit a reflection by e-mail, please note "reflection" in the subject line.

#### Features

Many of the articles *Liberty* publishes cover economic, social, or political concerns from a libertarian or classical liberal point of view. We are interested in good writing of other kinds, as well.

**Travel** — We are interested in essays about places of historical importance to libertarians: for example, Home, Washington, which was founded as an individualist-anarchist community; Mansfield, Missouri, where Rose Wilder Lane grew up and which now houses a museum of her work; or Boston, where much of the libertarian activity of the American Revolution occurred.

We are interested in travel experiences written from a libertarian perspective. For example, the March 1995 issue of *Liberty* included an idiosyncratic travel essay by Douglas Casey on Kyrgyzstan. We have published travel essays by the late R.W. Bradford and Murray Rothbard, and by Tibor Machan, Ben Best, and many others. We also publish an irregular "Why I Live Where I Live" series, in which authors explain their affinity for the places they have chosen to live. One such article, "A Strange Little Town in Texas," earned *Liberty* and author Larry Sechrest 15 minutes of fame in the national media for its unique description of Alpine, Texas.

We recommend you query us about travel writing before submitting.

**Fiction** — Although this is not a favorite type of feature of *Liberty's* readers, it is something that we try to publish. Libertarian fiction — or, at least, fiction by libertarians — is something we think needs encouragement. We are not looking for mere "propagandistic fiction," and we are most delighted to read stories that avoid clichés. There is a special problem with fiction that potential contributors should recognize: though novels of ideas can be

enjoyable and good, the short story form is not ideally suited to the elaboration of political or ethical philosophy. Proceed with caution — and, we hope, a good deal of imagination.

For electronic submissions, please indicate “fiction” in the subject line. Postal submissions should be sent to:

Stephen Cox  
Humanities 0306  
1512 Galbraith Hall  
University of California, San Diego  
La Jolla, CA 92093

**Poetry** — Like fiction, poetry is not among our readers’ favorite types of features, yet nevertheless is something we wish to encourage. Accordingly, we will be very particular about the poetry we publish, and our standards will be as high as elsewhere in the magazine, if not higher. Most efforts will be rejected, but don’t let that stop you from trying. Please indicate “poetry” in the subject line of email submissions. Postal submissions should be sent to Stephen Cox at the address above.

**Art** — Visual art, either on its own or accompanying a manuscript, will be considered, although it is not a typical feature of the magazine. Files in JPEG or other compressed format may be submitted via e-mail or postal mail. If sent via e-mail, a low-resolution image is fine; we can contact you for a high-resolution, lossless image if we decide to publish your work. If submitted via postal mail, do not send originals. Your work could be damaged or lost in the mail, and we prefer to have copies that may be circulated among editors and otherwise handled without the care due an original.

## Reviews

There is no better way to review the manifold world of culture, politics, and ideas on a regular basis than by reviewing books.

Query us about whether we wish a certain book reviewed or not. We can sometimes obtain review copies for our reviewers.

We publish two types of reviews: long (several hundred to several thousand words) and short (one to three paragraphs). We call the latter Booknotes. If you have read a book that you think deserves notice, you might consider ignoring the query stage and writing the review as a booknote, accompanied by a description of how you might go about writing a full review. If we are interested in the full treatment, we will ask for the full review; if not, we may publish your review as a booknote.

Please provide the following information about the book under review: publisher, date of publication, complete title and author’s name, number of pages, and current price.

We try to review important recent films and movies of the past that have significance from a libertarian point of view. We will consider for publication reviews of virtually any length. We also publish short reviews of film, under the rubric of Filmnotes, Videonotes, or Medianotes. Like booknotes, they present short reviews of works of general as well as specifically libertarian interest. The types of videos reviewed are *not* limited to “feature,” fiction presentations.

Please include videographic information with all reviews. For feature films, include the producer, studio, date, director, screenwriter, and cast; also, when relevant, the composer of the score and author of the original story. For films released on DVD or VHS, include the publisher and price.

## Regarding Biographies, Footnotes, etc.

We devote a page of *Liberty* to our contributors. With every submission, please enclose a short self-description, such as “John Smith is an associate professor of anthropology at American University” or “Jane Q. Public is a freelance writer living in Los Angeles.” Descriptions that run longer than three lines when typeset

may be edited for length. Like all contributions to *Liberty*, they will be edited for grammar and style as well.

We will scrupulously protect the identity of authors wishing to write pseudonymously; however, we do not publish writing of which we do not know the author’s true identity.

If your article is of an academic nature and contains footnotes, please keep the number of footnotes to a minimum. It is preferred that footnotes not be used in non-academic submissions. Footnotes may be omitted or recast as parenthetical citations or endnotes at the discretion of the editors.

If your work has footnotes or endnotes, we would prefer that you indicate them inline in brackets, preceded by “fn:”. Manuscripts are easiest to review and edit in this format. You need not manually number footnotes within the text and type them at the end; we will typeset them appropriately.

Make sure all references are complete. Footnotes referring to books should cite the author’s full name (if not already cited in the text), full title, publisher, date of publication, edition or volume number (if appropriate), editor and translator’s name (if appropriate), and page number (if you are citing a specific page). Example:

[fn: Marjorie Fontana, *German Liberalism: A Problem of Historical Perspective*, trans. Joseph Malik, ed. Frank Miller, second ed. (Ellstone Press, 1986), Volume III, pp. 234–40.]

Footnotes referring to articles should cite the author’s full name, full title, journal name, volume number (if any), date, and page numbers. Example:

[fn: Albert French, “Jefferson as Libertarian,” *Traverse City Quarterly*, 15 (May 1986), pp. 386–432.]

It is generally useful to cite specific page numbers for direct quotations, even in book reviews. If you are citing frequently from the same source, and are not referring to multiple sources such that ambiguity may result, give the basic bibliographical information for your source on the first reference. In subsequent references, give only page numbers in parentheses following quotations in your text. Footnotes usually can be avoided altogether by putting bibliographical information in parentheses in your text. Example:

Many libertarians reject French’s interpretation. In a recent work (*Jefferson the Politician*, University of Boise Press, 1985), Jo Anne Cummings refers to Jefferson as a “master manipulator” of political power (p. 86).

The most important thing is to assist your audience in doing further reading, or in checking your sources, and to avoid clutter.

## About Payment

*Liberty* does not pay for the articles it publishes. As we hope you can imagine, the prospects for showing a profit from publishing a libertarian magazine are poor, and the costs are considerable. As a consequence, most editors are working without remuneration; they write for the satisfaction of seeing their work published in *Liberty*.

The author of a feature article (not a review or Reflection) may request up to five additional copies of the issue in which his article appears, and a complimentary subscription extending one year from the issue in which the article is published.

If you would like extra copies of an issue in which your feature article is published, or a one-year subscription extension, or both, please indicate as much in your cover letter. Be sure to include the postal address to which the magazines should be sent. To request copies or a subscription after your manuscript has been submitted, write to our circulation department (circulation@libertyunbound.com, or the postal address below). Include your name; the title of your article; the issue in which it appeared; and the address to which your magazines should be sent.