

# women's press

Voices, Views, and Visions of the Women of San Luis Obispo County

## Writer's Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in writing for the Women's Press. We want stories from all kinds of women. If you feel strongly about your job, an issue, or a life experience, please tell us about it. We tend to choose articles that have a strong foundation; that expand and enhance our awareness and understanding about the many facets of being a woman in today's world.

We do not pay for reader submissions.

### Here are our specifications:

LENGTH/FORMAT: 250-500 words

STYLE: Write in a friendly, conversational style. Keep sentences short. Make headlines brief, concise, and attention-getting. The storyline should have a beginning (set the premise – what's it about, why?), a middle (facts, quotes, and information to support the premise) and a conclusion. Be sure you have included Who, What, When, Where Why, and How.

We reserve the right to edit for style and length.

METHOD OF SUBMISSION: E-mail is the preferred method of submission. Please submit your article to [editors@womenspress-slo.org](mailto:editors@womenspress-slo.org).

AUTHOR BIO: Include a short bio which will be printed at the end of an article if it is accepted for publication. 25-50 words

### WE APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD PLEASE NOT:

- Make a sales pitch or a self-promotion.
- Present a piece that requires the reader to buy something in order to gain benefit.
- Focus on only the negative.
- Preach to the reader.
- Go over 500 words.
- Type in all caps, overuse caps or punctuation.

CONTENT: Articles should reflect the writer's personal experience or feelings about an issue or topic. The general sections of the paper are Women's Stories (personal accounts by or about women, not topical), Women at Work (guidance and encouragement for women in the workplace), Body & Soul (women's health and wellness, physical, emotional, and spiritual), Unsung Heroines (stories about local women who contribute substantially to the community with little recognition), and Local Perspectives (viewpoints on topical issues). We also welcome letters to the editor and book reviews.

See more detailed guidance in the next column.

The best way to learn about the type of material we publish is to read the newspaper or web site ([www.womenspress-slo.org](http://www.womenspress-slo.org)).

Our content is original and our writers all live on the Central Coast of California or have a strong California connection. We receive more submissions than we can publish, and we cannot always respond quickly. Sometimes we plan to publish your submission, but space considerations may force us to hold it for a later issue.

*The following guidelines were created to help you prepare your essay or letter for publication. Send all submissions to*

[womenspress.slo@gmail.com](mailto:womenspress.slo@gmail.com)

**Letters to the Editor.** Do you love or hate something we published? Whether you're giving kudos or reading us the riot act, please share your views on anything we've published recently by writing a letter to the editor. Limit your letters to 100 words, and include your first and last name, city of residence, and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

**Local Perspectives.** Do you have a strong opinion about an issue? This is the place to share it. Your essay should be thought-provoking and may have either an edgy, provocative tone or a more thoughtful, reflective one, depending on the issue you're discussing and how you express yourself. When you write, think about both your personal feelings and the broader implications of the issue at hand. 500-word maximum.

**Women's Stories.** Have you had an experience that you'd like to share with other women? Consider writing about it. Though pieces published in this section may be topical, they are personal essays about personal experiences. When you write, think about what you feel most strongly, the deeper implications of your personal experiences, and how they may strike a chord for other women. Write as though you're telling your story to a friend. 300-500 words.

**Women at Work.** Talk about the rewards and challenges of the work you do; how you got started, where you are now, and where you'd like to go, advice you'd give to other women who are interested in your line of work. We want to hear from bank tellers and bank presidents, restaurant owners and wait staff. What about your work thrills you and gives deeper meaning to your life? Did you have a mentor or are you a mentor to another woman? What are the challenges you face? You may mention the name of your business or workplace but this is not a "press release" type of piece. Submissions should be approximately 400 words.

**Book Reviews.** Our readers love to read - and they like to know what other women are reading, too. We especially welcome reviews on books that offer women viewpoints and information about women's stories and issues they might not come across in mainstream publications. 400-word maximum.

**Purchasing advertising does not guarantee publication of an article. The article must stand on its own merits. We do not pay for articles, but appreciate the wisdom that is shared through each article.**