

## YMIblogging Writer's Guideline

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### About Youth Ministry Initiative

Youth Ministry Initiative, or YMI, seeks to reach youth, between the ages of 13–25, internationally with the purpose of:

1. Challenging youth who have aspirations to reach other young people with God's Word through various mediums such as music, literature, graphics, etc. We invite all Christian youth to an opportunity to become content creators.
2. Encouraging youth to be content distributors of God's Word through these various mediums to other youth.

We accept work written from a Biblical worldview that is relevant, interesting, and encouraging.

### What to Write

We are interested in short stories, essays, poetry, book/music/movie/sport/video games reviews and comic strips written by Christian youth (ages 13–25).

Your work should be guided by Christian themes such as: truth, honesty, humility, love, kindness, faithfulness, purity, courage, service, obedience, honoring parents, creation, sanctity of human life, and the sovereignty of God.

The response it should encouraged could be any of the following:

- Commitment to God
- Love for God and for people
- Service to God and to people
- Prayer

### Format

The maximum length we publish is about 1000 words for essays, and about 300 words for poems. Short stories should be not more than 3,000 words, and reviews should be about 500 words max. If you have pictures or video links to go with your articles, do send them to us.

Illustrations, photos or comic strips should fill a maximum size of about 8 x 10 inches on a page. You may send us your work in color or black/white.

Send your work to [contribute@ymiblogging.org](mailto:contribute@ymiblogging.org)

### What are the marks of a great article?

1. An intro sentence that grabs the reader around the neck and says "READ ME!"
2. A powerful illustration and biblical principles that hit the reader between the eyes.
3. A sharp conclusion that rips into the reader's heart.

That's fairly obvious, though, right? The question is HOW IN THE WORLD DO WE DO THAT? Here are a few suggestions:

- **Pray! Ask for God's help** (a great story alone does not a great article make).
- **Keep the first and last sentences short and punchy.** The loooonnnnnnggggeeeeeerrrrr the sentence, the more the "energy" of the sentence is depleted. (The same principle applies to an article too. Try as much as possible to tighten it.)
- **Imagine you are the reader.** What would you get out of the article?
- **Keep your theme clearly in mind** — and try to communicate that one big idea to the reader
- **Use illustrations/analogies the people can identify with.**
- **Use words that people can understand (instead of jargon, big words).**

We can't edit and publish what we don't receive, so keep punching the keys. ☺