

Article Submission GUIDELINES

The Evolving Astrologer Magazine

Thank you for considering an article submission to the OPA magazine, The Evolving Astrologer. Our magazine compiles articles from you, our membership, from all corners of the world, and it is shared in print or online to the tune of more than 10,000 clicks. We are delighted to be able to provide quality content and offer a platform for astrologers to share their insights.



Here are some important guidelines to help you submit articles.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS (May vary depending on the issue)

March Equinox edition – Feb 1

June Solstice edition – May 1

September Equinox edition – Aug 1

December Solstice edition – Nov 1

THEME OF THE ISSUE

Each edition has a theme. We announce the theme ahead of time so that people will submit articles around that theme. For example, previous themes have included Jupiter in Scorpio, Addressing Arguments against Astrology, Dwarf Planets, and so on.

–You can write about the theme.

–You can write about ANY astrology-related subject, as we consider all articles submitted.

–You can write about the practice and profession of astrology.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

If your article is selected for publication by OPA, we kindly ask that you refrain from publishing the same article in other astrology publications six months before and following its publication date with OPA. While authors retain the copyright to their work, they grant OPA exclusive publication rights for this specified period. Authors are, however, permitted to publish their articles on their personal platforms or websites.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WORK

In general, we prefer and prioritize original work not seen in other publications. We may occasionally publish book excerpts.

WRITING GUIDELINES

The magazine aims to provide insightful, well-researched, and accessible astrological content. Maintain a professional tone, but don't shy away from adding warmth and personal touches where appropriate.

- **The use of the first-person voice is generally discouraged in most articles**, as it can lend an overly casual tone and make the article read more like a blog post than a formal piece. However, if you have a story idea that necessitates the use of the first-person perspective, please consult with us.
- **Avoid using “we”** (unless referring to yourself). It often sounds judgmental and prescriptive to speak for all astrologers as a single entity. “We do...” or “we must...” or “we should...”
- **A well-formed introduction (thesis) is essential** before laying out the rest of the article.
- Conclusions and interpretations should rely on sound astrology principles and techniques. The contents need to be factually and historically accurate and make sure to properly reference any work that is not your own.
- Avoid debating the validity of other systems or disparaging other astrologers.
- Forecasting: refrain from making sensational claims. Make sure that your interpretations are founded on sound astrology analysis. Be sure not to use absolute terms when making predictions, such as “This will happen...,” but rather use a more suggestive tone, such as “There is a high probability that...” or “This may happen...”
- If you refer to political or social events, be sure to communicate with an objective focus on astrology analysis about the issue and refrain from inserting personal ideological or political bias.

Please proofread and spellcheck your articles before submitting them. We recommend an online editor like Grammarly or Google Doc Editor to do the bulk of that work. It will improve the likelihood of your work being accepted and will make our jobs easier.

OPA reserves the right to decline articles that do not match the purpose or format of the publication. Unfortunately, as our editors work voluntarily and are often working under stressful time constraints, we cannot always guarantee thorough explanations about rejected articles.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Your submission may be chosen for our Article Development Program, where you'll be paired with an experienced editor. Upon successful refinement of your article, it will undergo a final review before being published. This program is specifically designed to help emerging and first-time writers enhance their writing skills and gain exposure through publication in our magazine. Please note that the author must be an OPA member to take advantage of this service, as the intent of the magazine is to support the writing aspirations of our members.

BIO AND PHOTO

With every article or column you are submitting, make sure to include a short 130-word bio paragraph (including your website) and a recent headshot photo. **Upload using the submission form.**

FORMAT AND WORD COUNT

We look for quality beyond quantity, so short or long articles are welcomed as long as they are pertinent and interesting.

However, a typical format would be:

Columns – 1000-1500 words

Articles – 2000 – 3500 words

Structure your article for a constructive reading experience: your articles must have an introduction, headers for different sections, and a conclusion or summary.

Articles should be submitted in Word, RTF (rich-text format), or Google Docs, in a single, plain font, and without any special formatting or spacing (Bold and Italics are OK). **Use the submission form to upload your article, bio, charts, and images.**

Please include charts and images in your document as placeholders AND use the submission form to upload high-resolution versions.

OPA LIVE

The OPA Live section of the magazine features writing by leading astrologers and functions as the thematic core for each issue. Articles in this section should be between 2000-3200 words and written at a professional level (as outlined in this document).

WRITING FOR COSMIC CURRENTS (1000-1500 words)

- Profiles of artists, leaders, celebrities, and other creative, culturally current individuals
- Charts in the news
- Commentary on astrological issues or think pieces on astrology
- Short, informative, interesting pieces about astrology or Astro culture and history
- Noteworthy events and happenings

CITATIONS

- All citations should be compiled into endnotes, appearing at the end of the article.
- Avoid using footnotes, which typically appear at the bottom of each page.
- Place endnote numbers at the end of each sentence, after the period like so.¹
- You can use either superscript or regular text for the endnote numbers.

Format Example:

1. Robert Hand, "Transits and the Timing of Events," *Astrological Journal*, vol. 27, no. 2 (Spring [Year]): 12-25.

CHARTS AND IMAGES

Birth Time Ratings

All astrological charts featured in articles must have a verified time of birth with a rating of either A, AA, or B. Charts with unreliable birth times will not be accepted unless the author opts for a non-timed chart, such as a Noon or Solar chart.

Rectified Birth Times

Should a birth time be rectified, it's essential that we be notified, along with an explanation of the rectification methods used.

Image Sources

All images, including charts, must be sourced from free platforms, purchased, or used with explicit permission from the copyright holder. Additionally, it's important to provide proper credit for the image source, such as citing Dreamstime.com or Wiki Commons.

Chart Data Visibility

Astrological charts must display essential data—date, time, place, and house system—directly on the image included in the article **and** provided separately so it can be recreated for verification.

Image Quality

Charts and other graphic elements must be of print quality, requiring a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

SUBMISSION AND EDITING PROCESS

Our editorial process embodies OPA's commitment to continuing excellence. We deeply value each of our contributors, both editors and writers. Working collaboratively, we strive to bring forth the best astrological journal possible. **At times, we may suggest revisions to your article.** We recognize that even our most experienced writers can often find new ways to enhance their pieces. Thank you for your understanding and dedication to our mission.

Once you submit your article, we review it and assess if it is a match for the coming edition. Upon approval, the article often requires corrections and adjustments that we can either take care of and confirm with you, or we send the article back to you for revisions.

Only once the article is completed with all edits and adjustments on time, and both sides agree on its final form, is it included in the edition.

If the article requires heavy editing or development, especially for non-native English speakers, you may need to hire an editor. The cost for the editor services is \$25 per hour.

We will consult with you if that is needed. We hope this will not discourage you. It simply is an important time management requirement.

WRITING TIPS

Divide your article into distinct, well-spaced paragraphs to allow readers to comfortably absorb the content. Longer paragraphs, exceeding 7-8 lines, often lead to scanning or skipping. Consider structuring your article into organized sections, each clearly marked with a header, making the article more inviting and readable.

If you mention the **Summer Solstice** or any other season, be sure to mention which hemisphere you refer to. If you refer to the whole world, speak about the **June Solstice**, or **March Equinox**, to consider both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

One space ONLY after a period.

Capitalize proper nouns like **Moon**, **Sun**, and **Saturn**. Also, capitalize any planetary sobriquet (nickname) like **Lord of Karma** and **Luna**. **North** and **South Nodes** are capitalized. **Solar** and **Lunar Eclipses** capitalized. Consider boldface for any planetary references newly introduced into the text to help the reader orient on the page. House (i.e., 2nd house) is NOT capitalized unless a sobriquet is used like **Gate of Hades**. **Midheaven**, **Ascendant**, **Imum Coeli**, and **Vertex** are capitalized.

When speaking about techniques or concepts that are not common to astrology readers, explain the concepts you talk about. For example, some readers do not know what profections are. Do not take for granted that readers will understand what you write about.

Restrain the use of ellipses...and use only when grammatically necessary. Ellipses are a set of three consecutive dots (...) used in writing to indicate the omission of words in a quoted text, or to signify a pause, hesitation, or trailing-off in thought or speech.

If you need to emphasize a word, use italics; if you emphasize a concept or idea, use bold. Italicize quotes to help them stand out and create dynamics in the text.

Em Dashes (—) separate phrases and replace parentheses or commas. Use em dashes to set off a phrase that either amplifies, explains, or illustrates the main clause.

Example: "The Sun sign—just one aspect of a birth chart—doesn't tell the whole story."

En Dashes (–) indicate ranges. Use en dashes when indicating a range of numbers, dates, or time.

Example: "The Venus transit will last from June 5–June 6."

En dashes can be used to connect words that describe a range, relationship, or connection between the terms.

Example: "The Sun–Moon conjunction signifies a new beginning."

There are **NO SPACES** on either side of the Em and En dash.

Example: Dorothy—finding herself once again in a whirlwind—noticed Auntie Em, and quipped, "Not the kind of 'Em-dash' I was expecting!"

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Submissions are accepted using this form:

<https://airtable.com/app4vgNyds4u1vmMp/shr6yN5ZerVGIDoCw>