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**Writing for Teen Magazines**

**By Mridu Khullar (<http://www.WritersCrossing.com>)**

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I would look at the magazines my teenage neighbor and her friends stashed away in their cupboards and think, "Heck, I could do that!" So one day, while she was away at school, I broke into her room and "borrowed" the magazines.

Teenage magazines have changed since we were teens, I can tell you that. No longer do they advocate sex after marriage and accepting everything for what it is. Teenage magazines today are a whole different gamut. So, if you go into shock mode quickly, this market may not be your cup of tea.

If you want to get published in the teenage market, you have to be familiar with the slang that kids these days use. Gone are the days of the grammar appropriate "I have a crush on..." Now girls are crushing on guys, hanging with their friends and trying to achieve super cool status. And if you've got a problem with that, take a chill pill!

Forget vocabulary, forget grammar. Throw all the rules your English teacher taught you in the trash, because you're not going to need many of them. That's the deal. When writing for teenagers, you've got to be one. You've got to think like a thirteen-year old trying to figure out if the guy she's crushing on really likes her or not. It might not be a big deal for you, but for that thirteen year old, it's her life. It's important.

Which brings me to another important aspect—you have to give importance to the subject matter. If you think fighting with your best friend is no big deal, you have no place writing for this market. On the other hand, if you whole-heartedly believe that the sole reason of your existence is the guy you can't take your eyes off, then you might have a chance. Don't misinterpret this to mean that teenagers aren't involved in serious issues, though. You'll often find articles and issues for the serious teen—community service, road rage, drinking and even drugs—all topics that are given their share of space in these magazines.

Writing articles, quizzes and short stories for this particular market can be a lot of fun. Connect with the younger side of you and write about the ups and downs of high school, making and breaking friends,

dating and dumping guys and most importantly, accepting the person you are—in mind and in body. Teenage girls have many more issues with their bodies than do boys, and this is the reason that girl magazines far outnumber magazines for boys.

Before you start though, you might want to meet up with some youngsters to get a hold of their priorities, their interests and their lifestyle. Until you don't have the mindset of a teenager and aren't capable of the thought processes of one, you're not going to find success here.

In writing a query to the editor, the most important aspect is your idea and its presentation. Through your query, the editor has to know your voice, your talent and how much you understand this particular age group. It should be apparent from your query that you understand the publication and its requirements. The study–your–market rule applies even more strictly to this market as each magazine

has its own lingo and voice.

The pay rates of these magazines, like other consumer magazines, vary widely depending on the publication and its requirements. In general, you can earn anywhere from \$10 to \$2,000 for a single piece. Quizzes are very popular among teens and again pay quite well. If you're a cartoonist or illustrator, you can add even more. And you know what, you can get rich writing for teen magazines!

Once you're hooked though, you'll find that writing for teenagers is so much fun, that you'll want to do it over and over again, money or no money. This is one market, where the fun simply exceeds the work factor. So, what are you waiting for? Bring out those high school photographs and like, get writing already?

Mridu Khullar is the editor–in–chief of [www.WritersCrossing.com](http://www.WritersCrossing.com), a free online magazine for writers. Sign up for the free weekly newsletter to get a complimentary e–book with 400+ paying markets. Also check out her e–book, "Knock Their Socks Off! A Freelance Writer's Guide to Query Letters That Sell," available at <http://www.writerscrossing.com/queries.html>

### **I've Learned To Love Teen Art**

**By Martin Stoleman**

I have loved art for as long as I can remember. As a child I spent hour after hour doing art projects of all kinds with my mother and my siblings. We would paint, practice sewing or create things out of clay for hours on end. I never knew that the amount of art projects we worked on was abnormal until I got a bit older and heard all of my friends and school talking about their years of playing with trucks and action figures or being outside building forts. I guess our mother wanted us to be well rounded individuals so she started us on all things art from the start. I don't remember exactly what kind of teen art I created during my formative years, but I do know that it wasn't until recently that I learned to appreciate teen art.

To the surprise of no one that I knew, I decided to become an art teacher when I went to college. I

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loved art so much that I couldn't think of a better way to spend my days than on teaching children and teens more about the things I loved. I enjoyed my elementary aged students immensely from the beginning. I loved their curiosity and I enjoyed the way they saw art. It was the teen art that my junior high aged students were creating that took me a while to adjust to.

The thing about teen art is that it is less than traditional and often it needs to be classified outside of any established genres of art. The teens in my art classes saw art in a much different way than I expected, and hence their work was much different as well. I would give them an assignment and they would create work so unlike what I had asked for and yet so creative that I couldn't complain.

I have realized that teen art needs to be a genre of art all by itself. Why? I've determined that teen art is so unique because of the time of life that it represents. Teens are going through the ultimate time of transition, so it makes sense that their art would have a particular perspective and slant. And as different as teen art can often be, I have learned to appreciate it. I have learned to see it through the eyes of a teenager exploring the world and trying to make sense of their place in the world.

If you have a teenager who likes to play around with any art form, then you probably know exactly what I'm talking about with teen art. In fact, you've probably had similar issues in trying to recognize, define or categorize the art work that seems to make your teen come alive. My advice to you is this: teen art is something entirely of its own kind. Stop trying to make teen art into something else, and instead just enjoy it for what it is.

Martin Stoleman is an elementary and junior high school art teacher. He loves working with students and seeing what kinds of teen art they will come up with next. See

for more

details.



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