

How to Pitch to a Magazine Editor

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Step up to the plate. Know your editor's name.

Take a swing. Don't bug your editor.

STRIKE ONE! Don't ask your editor to tell you about their publication.

STRIKE TWO! Don't ask, "What are you looking for?"

FOUL! Don't assume your editor can make things happen for you.

FOUL! If you submit unsolicited manuscripts or proposals, don't expect a response. (The key word is *unsolicited*.)

BALL ONE! It's OK to have someone else reach out to your editor before you do. But remember

FOUL! Don't provide references from people your editor has never heard of.

BALL TWO! Don't drop names.

FOUL! Keep politics out of it.

FOUL! Regarding deadlines

FOUL! Avoid using sources, but if you do

FOUL! Understand format.

BALL THREE! Full count. TAKE YOUR BASE.

Will you score? (Whatever *that* means.)

STUFF TO THINK ABOUT IN THE DUGOUT:

- Understand your assignment.
- Submit your work as a Word doc unless told otherwise.
- Don't call your editor ... unless it's an emergency ... and then seriously consider, *Is this really an emergency*.
- But when *that* call comes, when you get called up to the big leagues, enjoy your new position as author — a writer who's been published.

THE MAGAZINE WORLD IS THE "WORLD SERIES OF WRITING."

Batter up!