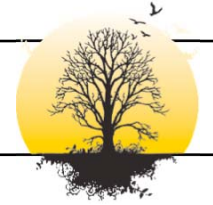




Submission Guidelines



Reflections WEST

*A little radio program about the literature, culture,
and history of the American West*

Welcome

Thank you for considering our literary radio experiment! We are creating a far-reaching radio program that takes intriguing perspectives of our contemporaries as well as captivating passages of literature into the airwaves!

This packet is designed to orient you in this contribution. We hope this will be a fun little project that collectively coalesces to show a great diversity of thinking about the West!

*Lisa Simon
Producer, Reflections West*

www.reflectionswest.org

Description of Parts:

Your contribution has three discrete parts—**Reflection, Transition, & Passage.**

Part I—Reflection—250 word essay

This is a *personal* reflection on a theme that speaks to living in or thinking about the West—past, present, or future. Your voice can be casual, humorous, angry, annoyed, or whatever reflects your feeling.

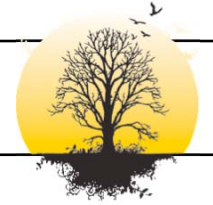
The reflection is a brief but punchy **prose** composition about the subject of your choice. It should take about a minute to read aloud.

Writing for radio stresses tactics of simple progression that can be captured by listeners who are often doing other things. That means strong, linear sentences while avoiding any looping back, cross-referencing, or complex or abstract structures. We live by the adage: keep it smart, but write it simply.

Reflections West is a “multi-voiced” or “multi-authored” show; that means you may be as idiosyncratic as you want in your perspective. Your name will be attached to your thoughts. Our main concerns are about clarity, accessibility, and compelling radio.



Submission Guidelines



Part II—Transition—25 – 75 words

Briefly give us the name of the text and author of the passage (part III) and perhaps tidbits of biography you think interesting or necessary, e.g. “a nineteenth century frontierswoman and ex-slave” or “a Butte native whose father worked in the copper mines.” Also include notable publication information, especially if the work comes out of a larger text or anthology: e.g. first published in *New Poets of the American West*.

Although this section is the first on the chopping block if we’re over our time limit, please err on the side of *over*-information in case we have room for some delicious details.

Part III—Literary or Historical passage—about 200 words

Select a compelling passage from literature or history that can be read in about a minute.

Again, keep the term “radio friendly” in mind as you select, a reminder that people are usually doing something else—driving, cooking, cleaning—as they listen to the radio. Passages that have dramatic arcs, vivid imagery, lively language, surprises and chilling endings work well.

Works that have dense language can make a minute seem like forever. Multiple references to other texts also work better in print than audio. We have some ways to counteract these tactics sonically, but they are riskier radio endeavors. If you must choose between a few favorites, lean toward the most *accessible* passages.

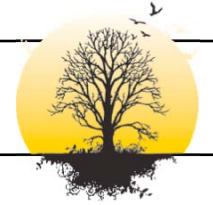
Editing and Recording

After receipt, I transfer your contribution into a script for the show’s hosts—David Moore and myself—to read on the air. Sometimes we need to edit and trim to fit the strict time limits or to make our interaction with the texts—both yours and the passage—flow for presentation. We do this editing with care and respect for your words, being ever mindful not to trim anything that would alter your meaning. The information in your bio and the transition material are rewritten into scripts for our voices.

See our website for examples.



Submission Guidelines



Ready to Submit?

Please submit all 3 parts (Reflection, Transition, Passage) as a **single Word doc**, email attachment, with your last name and the letters “RW” in file name. In the email, include **your contact info, a brief bio, tricky pronunciations, permissions info, and all the publication information, including page numbers, for your passage.**

Please also send a **digital photo** or a link to where we can lift one.

I will pass on scheduling information as I get it so that you can listen to your piece through the radio, as God intended. I’m told that this doesn’t always work, so we will post each segment on our own website. Online, you can listen, link, and share it with your friends through email, as Bill Gates intended.

Submit it to me: lisa@reflectionswest.org. Don’t hesitate to drop me an email or call 406-864-2919.

Permissions

We have very few resources for soliciting permissions. If you know the contact information of the writer or writer’s agent, or if you know the passage is open-domain, please send that information along.

If permissions cannot be obtained—due to prohibitive cost or inaccessibility—there is a risk we won’t be able to air your segment. Please keep this in mind as you are choosing. We appreciate your help.

Promotion

Our outreach goals are ambitious, but our network within the world of radio is small. As of this 2nd year, we will be airing on MTPR that broadcasts in Western MT and Yellowstone Public Radio that broadcast in the eastern part of the state.