

Job Title:	Freelance Writer – The Madvocate Newspaper
Reports to:	Communications Coordinator
Location:	Remote (Vermont-based applicants preferred)
Status:	Freelance/Contractor
Compensation:	Hourly or per-piece rate (to be negotiated)

About the Role:

MadFreedom Advocates, Inc. is seeking freelance writers to contribute to *The Madvocate*, a psychiatric survivor-led, statewide newspaper written by and for people with lived experience of trauma, institutionalization, neurodivergence, extreme states, or other marginalization by sanism. Writers will be responsible for generating original, relevant, and engaging content on news, policy, arts, culture, and community resources that inform, inspire, and empower readers.

The newspaper is published four times a year (October 15, January 15, April 15, and June 15), with additional digital content produced between issues. Writers may also contribute shorter, timely pieces for social media and the website.

Responsibilities:

- Write reported news, feature articles, op-eds, personal essays, profiles, and/or arts and culture pieces that reflect the interests and experiences of the peer community in Vermont.
- Pitch story ideas and respond to article assignments aligned with the editorial priorities and publishing schedule.
- Conduct interviews and research to produce accurate, engaging, and community-centered reporting.
- Collaborate with the Communications Coordinator and Editorial Board to shape story direction and meet deadlines.
- Follow journalistic ethics and prioritize the voices and perspectives of those with lived experience.
- Submit stories on deadline in clean, publishable condition, including sourcing and attribution.
- Respond to editorial feedback and make revisions as needed.
- Attend optional editorial meetings (held virtually).

Preferred Qualifications:

- Lived experience of trauma, institutionalization, neurodivergence, extreme states, or other marginalization by sanism.
- Demonstrated commitment to justice.
- Strong writing and storytelling skills.
- Experience writing for print or online media, especially community or advocacy publications.
- Knowledge of Vermont's mental health system, legislative process, or peer support values is a plus.
- Ability to work independently, meet deadlines, and respond to feedback.

Timeline & Availability:

Articles will be assigned and published on a rolling basis to meet quarterly issue deadlines (Oct 15, Jan 15, Apr 15, Jun 15) and interim digital updates. Freelancers may be invited to contribute to one or more issues depending on interest and availability.

How to Apply:

Please send a short letter of interest, a resume (if available), and one or more writing samples (published or unpublished) to info@themadvocate.org with the subject line "Freelance Writer Application – The Madvocate."