The Buffalo News

**Greg Connors, who edits the My View and Another Voice for The Buffalo News, shared his tip sheet.**

**My View** is a first-person column open to all Western New York writers. Submissions should be 600 words. Some pointers:

1. The writer should include some personal narrative (story-telling) along with the expository argument he or she is presenting. My View acquires its popularity with readers from writers’ willingness to reveal something of themselves and their lives (not merely what they think, but what they do and are) adding a human dimension. Simply giving your opinion on an issue is not acceptable. (My View is NOT the place to make an argument about political partisanship, immigration, President Trump, climate change, or the Catholic Church scandals, etc. Those can be expressed in letters to Everybody’s Column.)
2. My View should make one strong major point and then develop it. It should have a theme that could be summarized in a single, complete sentence. Do not submit “how to” or advice articles.
3. We would like to see some fresh angles. Some My View topics have been done to death: Life was simpler in the ‘40s-’50s-’60s-’70s or before computers, etc.; “I really love garage sales”; a tribute to one’s late mom or dad.
4. Please understand our guidelines. Since My View runs about 600 words, please don’t send us 425 words and hope it will magically fill the space. Also, don’t send us 1,100 words and say it was too good to cut, so could we run the whole thing in Sunday Viewpoints? Because 99.9 percent of the time we can’t.

Please include address, telephone number, and a brief author I.D. with all submissions. Writers may appear no more than four times per year (once every three months). There is no payment for this column.

**Another Voice**

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Opinion pieces about issues of substance may be made in Another Voice, as long as the writer has some demonstrated credential or authoritative connection to the topic.

Some other Another Voice tips:

1. We don’t publish pieces that are nothing more than rebuttals/refutations of previous AV columns. We have letters to the editor for that.
2. We reserve the right to edit every piece. Some things we excise are subtle and extraneous slaps at public figures; irrelevant or repetitive details; anything that’s confusing or doesn’t advance the argument being made.
3. The hardest part of my job is explaining to people that their submissions work fine as letters, but not in Another Voice. There are many different reasons for that. Sometimes it comes down to: What “Jane in Tonawanda” says about the new smoking law is interesting, but she’s not an authority figure on the topic. Some authors try to get around that by writing in fancy language, but that seldom works. But writers shouldn’t discount the importance of getting into Everybody’s Column, which has a wide readership and gives them much more leeway in what they can write about.

The word-count limit for Another Voice is 450 words. Even if you write like Ernest Hemingway or Joan Didion, the word count limit does not change.

Local and state issues, and writers, get higher priority on our pages than national or international issues, though those have a place for us also. Pieces may be submitted to EditPage@buffnews.com.

A writer submitting to Another Voice may only be published in The News once every three months, for a maximum of four times per year.

EXTRA CREDIT:

You make my job easier if you:

-- Do not send us PDFs (they are not editable, so create more work on our end);

-- Only leave one space after a period, not two. (Apologies to your high school typing teacher.)

-- Don’t use exclamation points. Just don’t!

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