# List of Emails (Templates Only):

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# Thank You for Your Interest in Submitit!

[This goes to clients who sign up but for whatever reason do not choose a service or upload a story.]

Subject: Thank You for Your Interest in Submitit!

Dear {client’s first name},

Thank you for your interest in Submitit. We are a one-of-a-kind service for submitting fiction and creative nonfiction to literary journals. We handle every step of the submissions process, from story analysis and optional editing, to the actual submissions. Below are some links that will help you understand what we do:

* Our [How it Works](https://www.submititnow.com/how-it-works) page covers the whole process, from story/essay analysis and editing, to (hopefully!) an acceptance. You’ll notice that Step 2 involves running your piece through the Submitit Algorithm; you can learn more about the algorithm [here](https://www.submititnow.com/the-submitit-algorithm), or if you’re really interested, [here](https://www.submititnow.com/post/the-submit-algorithm-a-brief-origin-story).
* Wondering how well this thing really works? We have a number of testimonials [here](https://www.submititnow.com/testimonials-publishings). You can read [this article](https://www.submititnow.com/post/how-well-does-submitit-work) about our actual publishing success rate.
* If you’re ready to choose a service, see our [Submission Packages](https://www.submititnow.com/services) page. If you’re interested in optional editing (highly recommended), see our [Editing Services](https://www.submititnow.com/editing) page.
* If you have any other questions, check out our [FAQs](https://www.submititnow.com/faqs) page, where we’ve tried to address everything from how involved you are in the process, to how we choose journals for our algorithm, to how we protect your privacy. Or simply shoot us an email or give us a call (here’s our [Contact](https://www.submititnow.com/contact) page).
* Finally, if you’re ready to get started, here’s our [Sign Up](https://www.submititnow.com/signup) form.

Thank you again for your interest in Submitit. We look forward to reading your work, and helping to get it published in a literary journal.

Best,

Submitit

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# Thank You for Uploading Your Story or Essay!

[This goes to clients who sign up for a regular or flash submission package.]

Subject: Thank You for Uploading Your Story or Essay!

Hi {client’s first name},

Thank you for putting your trust in Submitit. We look forward to reading your work. You will receive an e-invoice in a separate email (please check your spam folder if you don’t see it within twenty-four hours).

The following will give you a rough timeline of what comes next (it’s a long email—sorry in advance!):

1. **Shared email**: Usually *within a day or so*, we’ll create a shared email, which we’ll use for submission services like Submittable. (See our [Terms of Service](https://www.submititnow.com/terms-of-service) for more details.) **After we create your email, you will receive a “Gmail Forwarding Confirmation” email; please follow the link (“confirm the request”)**. Any questions, please let us know.
2. **Reading (and editing)**: We’ll read and (if applicable) edit your work, and then return it to you for approval. The timing for this step depends on our current workload. We will email you shortly with a firm date, but usually this step takes us from *one to three weeks*.
3. **The Submitit algorithm**: Once you’ve returned your revised work to us, we’ll run it through the Submitit algorithm to create a list of high-match journals. Before we start submitting, we’ll send you the list for approval. This usually takes *less than a week*.
4. **Submissions**: Finally, we’ll start submitting. We typically stagger submissions, starting with “better” journals, and then waiting *four months or longer* (!) before submitting to more accessible journals. Please be patient: the entire process can take many months (some journals are very slow). [Here’s more about our timing strategies](https://www.submititnow.com/post/the-art-of-timing-when-submitting-to-literary-journals).

In the meantime, while we’re working on your story, we need a few things from you:

1. **Submission strategy**: We have three submission strategies. If you have a preference, please let us know before we start submitting. [Click here to read more about these strategies](https://www.submititnow.com/post/submitit-s-three-submission-strategies).
   1. **Top journals**: We will target primarily (often exclusively) top journals in the first round, according to our algorithm’s match scores. These journals usually have very low acceptance rates.
   2. **Mid-range journals**: We will likely leave the top fifty or so journals—those with the lowest acceptance rates and highest submission volumes—out of the first round. **(This is our default strategy.)**
   3. **Accessible journals**: We will focus on more accessible journals in both rounds, thus maximizing your chances of getting published.
2. **A third-person bio (required) and a short story blurb (optional)**. The bio should be **50 words or fewer**. The blurb should be **one or two sentences** (skip the blurb for flash fiction packages, unless all three pieces can be summarized with the same blurb). [Click here to find out how to write a winning bio and blurb](https://www.submititnow.com/post/how-to-write-a-winning-bio-and-story-essay-blurb-for-literary-journals). Below are a couple of examples:
   1. **Bio ex.**: Bob Presley was a botanist for most of his life. Now he writes. He lives in Bakersfield, CA, with his wife, dog, and three cats. This would be his first published short story.(33 words)
   2. **Blurb ex.**: “The History of Yugoslavia in Eight Assassinations,” a work of fiction, is a story about rectangles, Derrida, lost love, and many other things.(1 sentence)
3. With your bio, feel free to send us your writing website URL and/or social media handles. Some journals ask for this information (always optional).

You’ll hear from us periodically throughout this entire process. Hopefully, of course, at some point we’ll be celebrating an accepted story. Please feel free to check in with us any time. Once again, thank you for using Submitit!

Best,

Submitit

# Journals List Only (JLO): Thank You for Uploading …

[This email goes to clients who sign up for our Journals List Only (JLO) service.]

Subject: Thank You for Uploading Your Story or Essay!

Hi {client’s first name},

Thank you for putting your trust in Submitit. We’re looking forward to reading your work. You will receive an e-invoice in a separate email (please check your spam folder if you don’t see it within twenty-four hours).

The following will give you a rough timeline of what comes next with our Journals List Only service:

1. **Reading (and editing)**: We’ll read and (if applicable) edit your work, and then return it to you for approval. The timing for this step depends on our current workload. We will email you shortly with a firm date, but usually this step takes us from *one to three weeks*.
2. **The Submitit algorithm (round 1)**: Once you’ve reviewed any changes to your work and you give us the green light, we’ll run it through the Submitit algorithm to create a list of approximately 15 high-match journals, from which you’ll choose (at least) 10 journals for submissions.
3. **The Submitit algorithm (round 2)**: We’ll contact you in around four months to see if you’re ready for round 2 (more accessible journals). If many first-round journals are still pending, we can delay the second round for as long as you’d like.

In the meantime, while we’re working on your story, please let us know which **submission strategy** you’d like us to take. [Click here to read more about these strategies](https://www.submititnow.com/post/submitit-s-three-submission-strategies).

1. **Top journals**: We will target primarily (often exclusively) top journals in the first round, according to our algorithm’s match scores. These journals usually have very low acceptance rates.
2. **Mid-range journals**: We will likely leave the top fifty or so journals—those with the lowest acceptance rates and highest submission volumes—out of the first round. **(This is our default strategy.)**
3. **Accessible journals**: We will focus on more accessible journals in both rounds, thus maximizing your chances of getting published.

Finally, [please subscribe to our blog](https://www.submititnow.com/blog). This is the best way to stay in touch with Submitit while we’re waiting around for a great journal to accept your story!

Any questions, please let us know. Once again, thank you for using Submitit!

Best,

Submitit

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# For continuing clients: Thank You for Uploading Your Story!

[This is not operational yet. It needs to be rewritten a little. We also need a different sign-up form.]

Subject: Thank You for Uploading Your Story!

Hi {client’s first name},

Thank you for putting your trust in Submitit once again. We’re looking forward to reading your work. As before, you will receive an e-invoice in a separate email (please check your spam folder if you don’t see it within twenty-four hours).

You’re probably familiar with the rough timeline, but if you have any questions, let us know. Typically, once Erik puts your story on his schedule, he’ll let you know. His story queue is usually around *one to two weeks* long.

In the meantime, while we’re working on your story, we need a few things from you:

1. **Submission strategy [NEW!]**: We now have three submission strategies. If you have a preference, please let us know before we start submitting.
   1. **Top journals**: We will target primarily (often exclusively) top journals in the first round, according to our algorithm’s match scores. These journals usually have very low acceptance rates. **(This is our default strategy.)**
   2. **Mid-range journals**: We will likely leave the top fifty or so journals—those with the lowest acceptance rates and highest submission volumes—out of the first round.
   3. **Accessible journals**: We will focus on more accessible journals in both rounds, thus maximizing your chances of getting published.
2. **Brief one to three sentence synopsis of your story (optional)**: Keep it simple. Here's an example: *“The History of Yugoslavia in Eight Assassinations,” a work of fiction, is a story about rectangles, Derrida, lost love, and many other things.*
3. **Third-person bio**: If you have any updates to your bio, please let us know.

As always, you’ll hear from us periodically throughout this entire process. Hopefully, of course, at some point we’ll be celebrating an accepted story. Please feel free to check in with us any time. Once again, thank you for using Submitit!

Best,

Submitit

# Check-in 1: Subscribe to our blog

Subject: An Update: “{Story Title}”

Hi {client’s first name},

Just a quick check-in. “{Story Title}” is pending at the following journals: {list of pending journals}. {If no replies yet, add the next sentence} We have not received any decisions yet (it’s still early). {If we’ve had any replies, add the next sentence} The following journals have declined the submission: {list of declined journals}.

Top journals often take three to five months to make their decisions, so our default plan is to wait several months to give these guys a good head start. Then, we’ll move to the next round of journals.

While you’re waiting, (if you haven’t done so yet) please consider subscribing to [Submitit’s blog](https://www.submititnow.com/blog). We post articles about submitting, craft, grammar, and more. Be sure to follow our IG, Twitter, and FB pages (see below) for condensed tips and tricks on polishing and publishing your piece, as well as success stories from our published writers.

If at any point you’d like us to move on to the second round of submissions—that is, to more accessible journals—just let us know. We know the wait can feel ridiculously long, and by far most of our acceptances are second rounders. In case you missed it, here’s [a post](https://www.submititnow.com/post/the-art-of-timing-when-submitting-to-literary-journals) that gets into submission timing in more detail.

As always, if you have any questions in the meantime, please don’t hesitate to let us know.

Best,

Submitit

# Check-in 2: Tell a friend

Subject: Another Update: “{Story Title}”

Hi {client’s first name},

“{Story Title}” is pending at the following journals: {list of pending journals}. {If no replies yet, add the next sentence} We still have not received any decisions yet. {If we’ve had any replies, add the next sentence} The following journals have declined the submission: {list of declined journals}. All we need is one acceptance, so stay strong!

By the way, if you’ve been pleased with the quality of our services so far, please spread the word about Submitit. For each writer who signs up with us (and mentions your name), we’ll give you **$25 off future work** with Submitit. Thanks!

If you’re not familiar with [our blog](https://www.submititnow.com/blog) yet, please consider subscribing. We’re adding new articles on topics related to submitting, writing, craft, and more, such as [this one](https://www.submititnow.com/post/i-d-like-to-talk-about-formatting-and-punctuating-dialogue-said-erik-harper-klass-gleefully) on how to format and punctuate dialogue.

As always, if you have any questions, we’re here.

Best,

Submitit

# Check-in 3: Expand your writing

Subject: Another Update: “{Story Title}”

Hi {client’s first name},

Another status report: “{Story Title}” is pending at the following journals: {list of pending journals}. {If no replies yet, add the next sentence} We still have not received any decisions yet. {If we’ve had any replies, add the next sentence} The following journals have declined the submission: {list of declined journals}. Once again, the magic number is ONE. Fingers crossed.

Interested in quintupling (!) your chances of getting published? [Click here](https://www.submititnow.com/post/how-to-quintuple-your-chances-of-getting-published-in-literary-journals) (it’s kind of about fishing). If, after reading, you’re inspired to send another story or essay our way, please drop us a line (so to speak).

{Skip the next sentence if round two has happened} Round two is coming up. As always, if you have any questions, we’re here.

Best,

Submitit

# Check-in 4: Writing tips, blog, tell a friend

An Update: “{Story Title}”

Hi {client’s first name},

Another status report: “{Story Title}” is pending at the following journals: {list of pending journals}. {If no replies yet, add the next sentence} We still have not received any decisions yet. {If we’ve had any replies, add the next sentence} The following journals have declined the submission: {list of declined journals}. {Skip the next sentence if round two has happened} Round two—what we sometimes call the money round—is coming soon.

If you haven’t subscribed to [our blog](https://www.submititnow.com/blog) yet, please do. We frequently post articles on writing, such as [this one](https://www.submititnow.com/post/the-grammar-rule-only-copyeditors-know) on glass, fire, and siamese lambs (it’s actually about the importance of field research for your writing).

Also, please don’t forget to spread the word about Submitit. For any client you refer who signs up, we’ll give you $25 off future work with us (no limit). Thanks!

As always, we’re here if you have any questions.

Best,

Submitit

# Check-in 5: Rejections

Subject: Another Update: “{Story Title}”

Hi {client’s first name},

“{Story Title}” is pending at the following journals: {list of pending journals}. So we’re not done yet! And hopefully we’ll get a bite from one of the more-accessible second-round journals.

But, yes, we’ve had some passes. As we’ve hopefully made clear on our website and elsewhere, rejections are a part of submitting. Here’s an article we published called [“Zen and the Art of Rejection”](https://www.submititnow.com/post/zen-and-the-art-of-getting-rejected)—name says it all.

Obviously, we’ll continue to wait for our second rounders, which are still “fresh,” as well as any first round stragglers. Fingers, as always, crossed. Patience is a big part of submitting.

We’ll email later with additional options, but one thing you might think about is adding on to your original package (see the [Services page](https://www.submititnow.com/services) for add-on discounts if you started with the 15- or 20-journal package). We’re frequently adding newer (and often more accessible) journals to the database. Now may be a good time to give them a try.

We’ll be in touch in around six weeks, unless we get an acceptance before then. Any questions in the meantime, we’re here.

Best,

Submitit

# Check-in 6: Final

Subject: Another Update: “{Story Title}”

Hi {client’s first name},

Here’s where we stand: “{Story Title}” is pending at the following journals: {list of pending journals}. Obviously, we’ll continue to wait for these final journals to reply. The magic number continues to be ONE. Try to stay positive.

As we’ve mentioned on our website (perhaps too often), getting published is hard, and it sometimes takes multiple efforts. So we have some options:

* It’s been a while, so you might want to revise your story or essay. We talked about this in the [“Zen and the Art of Rejection”](https://www.submititnow.com/post/zen-and-the-art-of-getting-rejected) article. Perhaps the passage of time will allow you to read your work with fresh eyes and improve it in some way.
* As mentioned before, if you’d like to add on to your package, we can target some of the newer journals in our database, not to mention high-match journals that may have been closed to submissions during the earlier rounds. (See the [Services page](https://www.submititnow.com/services) for add-on discounts if you started with the 15- or 20-journal package.)
* Finally, if he hasn’t done so yet, Erik could jump in and give the story a line edit (line editing includes, and goes considerably beyond, copy editing). See details and prices on our [Editing page](https://www.submititnow.com/editing-services). Perhaps the story is right on cusp of greatness. Erik can help.

No writer—not even the very best—expects to publish every story or essay. Rejections are simply part of the journey. Whether we get this particular piece accepted or not, we hope you’ll consider using Submitit again. **We’ve truly enjoyed working with you and we hope to work with you again soon.** Any questions, please let us know.

Best,

Submitit

PS: If you haven’t done so yet, please subscribe to [Submitit’s blog](https://www.submititnow.com/blog), so you can stay in touch with news and such.