

November 7 [REDACTED]

Barbara [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Little Rock, AR [REDACTED]

Re: "Senti-metal," "Dish of Fish," and "Click-A-Dee-Clack"

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for submitting "Senti-metal," "Dish of Fish," and "Click-A-Dee-Clack" for the 2018 issue of *Quills & Pixels*. We receive a wide variety and quality of submissions and hearing so many different voices in our writing community is a pleasure. The editorial board of *Quills & Pixels* is excited to include "Senti-metal," "Dish of Fish," and "Click-A-Dee-Clack" in the 2018 issue.

The editorial board would like to offer the following suggestions about your pieces:

Senti-metal

"Senti-metal" is an engaging and interesting combination of the storyline of the woman and her baby shoes, the storyline of the business, and the author's involvement. The editorial board likes how relatable it is and how you wove the storylines together together.

The editorial board suggests smoothing the transitions from the senti-metal storyline and your involvement in the business. Also, we appreciate the way you described the company founders' warmth and the connection they have to all of the shoes they bronzed. We would like to see that in the part you play--what it means to you to be part of the tradition.

Dish of Fish

"Dish of Fish" is an intriguing topic and life experience that has rich detail. The editorial board is interested in hearing more about how you felt and physically experienced, such as not just that you were in shock, but what it was like to be in shock.

Also, consider matching the speed and power of the story to what is happening at the time--slower and less forceful before and after and more powerfully and speedy as the tornado is happening. You do this a little bit, but we think that focusing this explicitly during your revision will strengthen the piece even more.

The focus on the fish is interesting and compelling. We wondered if there might be a wee bit of foreshadowing of the fish--perhaps something like "I walked past the fish tank...etc etc." In other words, some way to briefly, quickly introduce the reader to the fact that the fish exist, because they sort of pop out of nowhere in the story. It might even be interesting to try and talk about the fish in the same way you didn't focus and then hyperfocused and then didn't focus.

Click-A-Dee-Clack

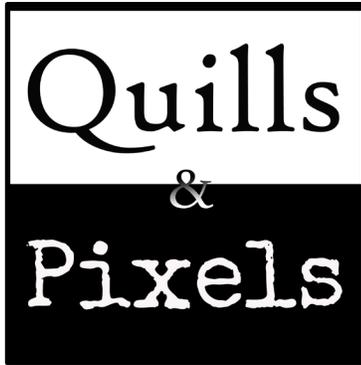
"Click-A-Dee-Clack" provides an interesting, relatable, and conversational read of the unique topic of being a railroad family. The editorial board suggests building into the piece more of your thoughts and feelings in all the railroad happenings and encounters and talking about its importance to you personally. You talk about more important railroad stops such as the end of the line and the main station. The editorial board wonders if you could give more detail about what those stops were about and what they meant to you in your life.

You have rich pieces, and we appreciate your submissions to *Quills & Pixels*. We look forward to working with you to polish "Senti-metal," "Dish of Fish," and "Click-A-Dee-Clack" for publication. Please submit the revisions and a fifty-word bio by December 1 to qp@ualr.edu. I am your lead editor, so please don't hesitate to email me at the same qp@ualr.edu address if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Y. Hope Osborn
Lead Editor

And the rest of the Editorial Team--Kristena [REDACTED], Mary Ann [REDACTED], Kimberly [REDACTED], Chloe [REDACTED], and Keely [REDACTED].



November 14, [REDACTED]

Gabriel [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Batesville, AR [REDACTED]

Re: "Comparing Books Against E-Books," "Tom and I," "Is Political Correctness Correct?," and "Big Business"

Dear Gabriel,

Thank you for submitting "Comparing Books Against E-Books," "Tom and I," "Is Political Correctness Correct?," and "Big Business" for consideration in the upcoming publication of *Quills & Pixels*. We were pleased with the variety and quality of submissions this year, as well as how many we received. It has been a pleasure to hear so many different voices in our writing community, and we regret that there are not enough pages to include all of them. Unfortunately, we will not be able to publish your works.

Although we were unable to include "Comparing Books Against E-Books," "Tom and I," "Is Political Correctness Correct?," and "Big Business" in this year's *Quills & Pixels*, we would like to take this opportunity to offer some suggestions for revision.

Comparing Books Against E-Books

"Comparing Books Against E-Books" is an interesting, persuasive piece that gives us your thoughts on the differences between hard copy books and e-books. However, focusing more on what you want the thesis to be—more studied or opinioned and whether you lean toward hard copy or e-books, would help clarify the topic.

You point toward opinioned in several places, such as, "*The book as a whole creates many sensations. The thickness and texture of the paper contacts my hands as they glide across each page while tracing each sentence one by one.*" It is in places like this that we would love to hear more of your thoughts, feelings, how books, as well as e-books, affect your memory and senses, etc. to make it come alive for the audience.

Tom and I

"Tom and I" is a narrative of a memorable experience in the life of the author. The editorial board thought the piece would be stronger if the audience knew more of the context of the story--why it is significant to the audience and to the author and what are the thoughts, feelings, and motives of the characters?

Is Political Correctness Correct?

“Is Political Correctness Correct?” is a thoughtful, well-researched, and engaging study, bringing up good points on political correctness in society. The editorial board thought, though, that the audience would benefit from a clearer definition of political correctness and more specific examples of why it is so detrimental--in short, the piece was mostly opinion with little research supporting your argument. The editorial board recommends working on finishing the ideas of making the reader give the subject thought, including explaining the option. We would also like to see less distraction in the form of the questions throughout.

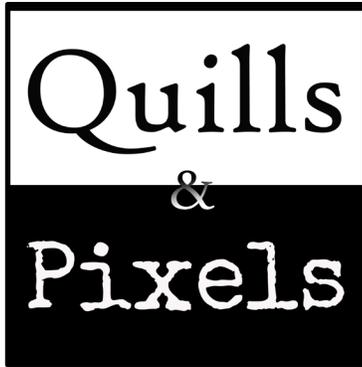
Big Business

“Big Business” is about the important topic of our environment. Your choice of photographs and images correlated well to the message of this piece. To help the reader, the sections with similar content could be reorganized and grouped together. This would also make the transition from one section to another much smoother and easier for the reader to understand. The voicing in the piece should be consistent. You did a great job on the research and that research gives you the authority to state what you believe instead of posing questions.

We hope you will resubmit these pieces or other ones of your choosing next year. We look forward to reading your work again and wish you continued writing success.

Sincerely,

Quills & Pixels Staff



November 7, [REDACTED]

Amy [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Little Rock, AR [REDACTED]

Re: "Initiations"

Dear Amy,

Thank you for submitting "Initiations" for the 2018 issue of *Quills & Pixels*. We receive a wide variety and quality of submissions and hearing so many different voices in our writing community is a pleasure. The editorial board of *Quills & Pixels* is excited to include "Initiations" in the 2018 issue.

The editorial board would like to offer the following suggestions about your piece:

The editorial board is impressed with how seamlessly you led the audience through a narrative rich with description and honest thought and feeling. We are intrigued by the uniqueness of the topic and the voice with which you cover the topic.

You do well giving just enough detail to open the world without making it explanation heavy, but the editorial board suggests helping the audience better understand some of the Wiccan beliefs with a little more explanation of some aspects of it. Think about the piece from the view of the uninitiated/uneducated about Wicca audience.

Also, the editorial board suggests setting your dialogue free--let the dialogue stand alone among your paragraphs to give the dialogue more punch.

At the beginning you ask the question "But what did that really mean?" The editorial board suggests you develop this idea into a thesis that is woven throughout. What does being Wiccan mean to you? You might develop how you were introduced to Wicca to help complete the storyline.

You have a rich piece, and we appreciate your submission to *Quills & Pixels*. We look forward to working with you to polish "Initiations" for publication. Please submit the revision and a fifty-word bio by December 1 to [REDACTED]@ualr.edu. I am your lead editor, so please don't hesitate to email me at the same [REDACTED]@ualr.edu address, if you have questions.

Sincerely,
Y. Hope Osborn
Lead Editor

And the rest of the Editorial Team--Kristena [REDACTED], Mary Ann [REDACTED], Kimberly [REDACTED], Chloe [REDACTED], and Keely [REDACTED].