

THE HOYA

Opinion Contributor Application | Fall 2014

Thank you for your interest in contributing to THE HOYA's Opinion section for the fall 2014 semester. The Opinion section is looking for both *columnists* and *editorial board community members*.

Columnists are among the most recognizable contributors at THE HOYA, and their commentary plays an important role in campus dialogue. A successful column approaches a broad topic through the columnist's unique angle. Past columns have commonly focused on religion, politics or student life, but applicants should not limit themselves to those areas. A columnist should be able to both entertain and enlighten readers while sharing his or her own original opinion. Though they are not considered staff members of THE HOYA, regular columnists are responsible for writing one column every two weeks, and all columns appear under the columnist's original byline. It is critical that applicants be able to commit to writing at this uninterrupted frequency on a schedule determined by the Opinion Editor.

The editorial board is collectively responsible for writing the unsigned editorials that appear in each issue of THE HOYA. The board is composed of three members of the newspaper's staff and two non-staff *community members* from the Georgetown undergraduate community. The editorial board is an integral part of the paper, and meets twice per week to discuss editorial topics as a group. Each editorial is composed by one member but represents the opinions of the whole board. Individual members will be responsible for writing an unsigned editorial approximately once per week but will have the opportunity to influence the content of the editorial page for each issue, as well as interact on a regular basis with staff members of THE HOYA.

The deadline for columnist and editorial board member applications is August 15, 2014, at 11:59 p.m. Please submit all materials to David Chardack, Opinion Editor, at opinion@thehoya.com.

Application Elements

Cover Letter

All applicants should include a cover letter explaining why you have chosen to apply to the opinion section and the position to which you are applying (columnist or editorial board member). Please include your school, year and hometown in your letter, as well as any club, employment, internship or other time commitments you expect to have this semester.

Columnist applicants: also include your proposed column theme and several potential individual column topics. *Note:* THE HOYA has occasionally featured duo columns. If this interests you, please submit only one application, which both applicants' answers to the cover letter questions on the same sheet. Additionally, give a specific explanation in your cover letter for why you are applying as a pair.

Editorial board applicants: also include a description of the depth and breadth of your cumulative involvement in Georgetown life in order to demonstrate the experience you could bring to the editorial board as a community member.

If you are interested in applying to both positions, please submit all writing samples required for each position but only one cover letter.

Writing Sample

Columnist applicants: please attach two sample columns that represent the theme of the column that you hope to write throughout the semester. These columns should be 600 to 800 words in length and should demonstrate creativity and polish in both your ideas and writing. Keep in mind that these columns could be published at some point during the semester.

Editorial board applicants: please attach two short essays representative of your opinion. The first essay should address what you believe is Georgetown University's greatest strength. The second essay should address what you believe represents Georgetown University's most serious flaw. Each essay should be no more than 250 words and should demonstrate argumentative skills and succinct writing style.