

## Write what you want to read.

*“Common mistake: Trying to get published too soon. Make sure your work is revised, polished, and absolutely the best you can make it. Another common mistake: Querying the wrong person. Research, research, research.” - Jane Friedman, Publisher and Editorial Director of Writer’s Digest.*

The award-winning *Virginia Quarterly Review: A National Journal of Literature & Discussion* has strived to publish excellent writers for the past three centuries. On its pages have been the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, Robert Frost, Pulitzer Prize winners, contemporary writers and even unknown writers. Kevin Morrissey is the managing editor of the *Virginia Quarterly Review* and offered to share with us common mistakes writers make, as well as his advice on how to get published in VQR.

**Piper:** *What is the biggest mistake writers make?*

**Kevin Morrissey, Managing Editor, Virginia Quarterly Review:** I won't go into stylistic matters since that would take forever to answer, but one of the biggest mistakes writers make when submitting unsolicited work to journals like VQR is not doing their homework on the journal's editorial focus and determining if their work matches the taste of the journal's editors. We receive over 1,000 unsolicited submissions every month and many are simply not right for us given our mission. Writers need to research and read journals, find the ones that best fit their writing style, and submit to those.

**Piper:** *Tips for being published in your publication?*

**Morrissey:** It's as simple -- send us your best work. Given how much work we're sent and the limited number we're able to publish, work has to be stellar to be considered. Re-read and re-write, have others you trust read your work and ask for (and listen to) honest, constructive criticism. For VQR, we're less interested in inward-looking work (i.e., personal memoirs, etc.); we're interested in prose and poetry that's actively engaged in the larger world.

*“Write and re-write, and then re-write again.” – Kevin Morrissey, Virginia Quarterly Review*

**PIPER NICHOLE** presents “Getting Published” at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Studio School. She is the author of “The Everything Homebuying Book, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition,” part of the best selling “Everything Series” by Adams Media, “The For Sale By Owner Handbook,” published by Career Press and “Buying a House on a Shoestring.” She has been featured in CNBC, The Chicago Tribune, Wall Street Journal, AOL Real Estate, ABC Radio and more. For more information, visit [www.pipernichole.com](http://www.pipernichole.com).

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