

Gabrielle Troutman, Appalachian State University

I would say things went really well, we all worked nicely as a team. Things came together super fast, everybody was really responsive, and everybody kind of fit in their roles very nicely.

Yeah, I mean I love it, it turned out great. We came up with a name scarily fast, it was way fast. We were just playing around with the sun, or more, rather, we wanted to stray away from like the coming out of the darkness into the light, and somehow that led us to sun. And then we said, well let's you know, maybe not the sun, perhaps the moon. And then it turned into sundials are really cool, moondial? And for a second we didn't know if we made that up, or if that just came out of nowhere, but turns out it's a real thing. And so we are Moondial, and we came up with what we kind of wanted to do, figured out the call for submission, how we were going to ask people, and then kind of just started rolling from there.

Ellie helped out a lot with [social media] at first, because we didn't, one thing that we struggled with was we didn't realize, Maureen, who I don't believe is here, is in a different time zone than us, and so we didn't realize that. And so every time we started our meetings Maureen was like, Oh I still have an hour, and so we only had two meetings, I believe. So we just told her at the last one like hey, hop on, like sorry we didn't even, forgot to ask, sorry about that.

And then kind of got everything going, Maureen did the social media posts really well, and everybody sort of, it sort of started more so once submissions came in. We couldn't quite figure out how we wanted to set it up, if we wanted it to be anonymous, how we were going to do that. And so I ended up organizing it so that the submissions came in through my email, and I took the names off of everything, and then put it into a myriad of folders, and everybody somehow managed to find them and it work out. And then we met, and after we read, we met, and then everybody kind of voted. We said a few things, I mean a few seconds worth about a piece, and then everything went along, and then we had copyeditors come in, and in the submission form we asked if it was okay, because we didn't have a longer revision period, if they consented to copyedits, and everybody did thankfully. And so everything went really smoothly in that aspect.

And we received about, we probably got about around 35, and then we read through them in about two hours, everybody did really well in that aspect, because we wanted to have a decent submission period. We went from 8pm to 10:10 this morning because I forgot to shut it off at ten, and we actually did get one more submission, so that was great. And so we went from that long we got about 35 submissions, lots of poetry.

We had a lot of prose which I don't think we were expecting, and we ended up evening it out a lot. We ended up choosing, I can share my screen and show, but we ended up choosing, let me see if I can share my screen. Okay.

Dr. Michael Cocchiarale, Widener University

Yeah, you should be able to share now.

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Perfect. And this was all Ellie and Amber for sure. So this is our cover. Our theme is phases of time, so phase is perfectly there, and that's a moondial. And then we pop in, and this is our letter to the editor that we have, and then this is the table of contents. I have it set up like a book, but yeah, if you guys want to skim that.

But we ended up selecting nine pieces, eight for the phases of time, and then we had one that we really loved and it's narrated, it's from like a death perspective. And so we thought that it could be, it's also kind of poignant, so we thought it would work well at the end as an eclipse, so we also really wanted it to end. So we ended up with nine pieces, we had so many great submissions, but I think we really, one thing that we did struggle with was that we wanted to have, to be able to accept more, but there were just some things where we wanted a longer revision period. Obviously, 24 hours, how long can we have? We definitely wanted to have a critique period and a revision period, and we all, I know Hannah and I were like, Oh, gosh! If we just had like two seconds longer with this, I know that we could just help it just be like perfect.

So we did. We found a lot of work that was fully formed and amazing, and that's what went in, but everything that was submitted was great. There was nothing that we were like, hmm. We did have a few things that weren't on theme, and so we did turn those away. But not without first saying, Oh, this is great! I love this, if it only fit. So yeah, we had, I believe an even amount, not an even amount. But we might have more prose than we do poetry, or it might be the other way around, but we were all surprised by that. It's 35 pages long. So it's lovely, we have the phases up here, then we have our authors, their titles, it's really great. We loved it, and we'll share this PDF too.