



## CALL FOR COMMENTARY COLUMNIST

Contact Alec Masella, Recruitment manager  
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*The Pylon*, Virginia Tech and Blacksburg's newest source of investigative and longform journalism, informed commentaries, and submission-based creative works, is searching for a qualified candidate to take on the role of Commentary columnist.

The Commentary section seeks to entertain original, well-researched perspectives on relevant and interesting ideas pertinent to the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities. Not only will Commentary serve the role as a traditional opinion page, it will engage and invite the thoughtful exchange of ideas from a wide array of voices and opinions, delivered in a manner that adheres to the highest standards of journalistic quality and is not offensive, divisive, or otherwise dogmatic.

### Functions of the Commentary columnist

- Commentary columnists work closely with the Commentary editor to deliver well-researched, fact checked opinion pieces to our Blacksburg and Virginia Tech audiences.
- Commentary columnists are expected to attend every budget meeting, go to write-ins once a month for editing help, to produce at least one well-sourced, fact-checked story each month, to promote *Pylon* content on social media, and to work with the visuals section and other sections when necessary.
- The columnist is expected to meet deadlines and work closely with the Commentary editor.
- The columnist is also expected to respond to email and Slack messages in a timely fashion.
- The columnist must treat colleagues and sources with respect and act ethically at all times.
- In addition, Commentary columnists are expected to complete all trainings hosted by *The Pylon* and to seek additional writing and reporting training when possible, potentially through classes, conferences, or even books.

### Desired qualities and qualifications

- Is inquisitive and curious
- Can be fair and neutral, and can write objectively
- Thinks critically and ethically
- Can form strong arguments based in fact and research
- Can work closely with editorial staff and enjoys constructive feedback
- Demonstrated writing experience or samples a plus, but not necessary
- Should have a strong desire to grow and learn as a columnist
- Availability for ~5 hours per week, with regular mandatory meetings

All people living in or near Blacksburg are encouraged to apply (student or not).

**Note—the position is unpaid.**

### What do we have to offer?

- Journalism experience with a dynamic startup
- Professional letters of recommendation
- Significant opportunities to grow and learn essential reporting and editing skills
- Extensive training and professional development opportunities

To apply, please email [editor@thepylon.org](mailto:editor@thepylon.org) with a resume and a subject line of "COMMENTARY COLUMNIST." The body of the email constitutes an informal cover letter.

Questions? Send them to our recruitment manager, Alec Masella ([alec11@vt.edu](mailto:alec11@vt.edu)), or send a direct message to our official pages on Twitter ([twitter.com/thepylonorg](https://twitter.com/thepylonorg)) or Facebook ([facebook.com/thepylonorg](https://facebook.com/thepylonorg)).

*The Pylon* is an equal opportunity employer. We will not discriminate in employment against any employee or job applicant on the bases of race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Reasonable accommodation is available to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities.