

So You Want to Write a Real Live Action for *Discorder*

Things that will make your RLA kick ass:

- *Discorder* is a locally-focused publication, so **give local artists their due**, even if they are opening for a far superior touring band.
- **Research** any bands you are not familiar with before attending the concert.
- Review *all* acts at the show. If you cannot review all the acts, at least try to be subtle and graceful about the ones you missed.
- Try to draw the reader into the venue; **creating a sense of atmosphere** makes for a more engaging read rather than just running through a list of who played what songs.
- Getting it to the RLA editor within **24-48 hours** of the show means it will still be relevant by the time it hits the web. Keeping it around 400 words means readers won't get bored!

Real Live Action Basics:

- Live reviews should contain the Band Names, Venue Name, and Date (spell out fully).
The Band / Another Band / This Band Too
Awesome Venue / Day/Month/Year
- Show reviews are **always** written in past tense.
The band's death metal soothed the soul. [Correct]
The band's death metal soothes the soul. [Incorrect]
- If you're talking about a band with the word *and* in their name replace the *and* with an ampersand (&). This prevents confusion when a sentence could easily be about two bands as it is about one.
- When writing lyrics put them in quotation marks, capitalizing the first word of each line and separating them with slashes separated by a space on each side. For example: "I come with that ol' loco / Style from my vocal / Couldn't peep it with a pair of bifocals"

Grammar and Conventions:

- Avoid using American spelling. Examples would be: color and honor should be colour and honour; center and somber should be centre and sombre.
- When writing dates, write the month name in full and write the day numerically (no sts, ths or nds needed) always. You can drop the day of the week and the year unless they are necessary for clarity:
The concert is happening on November 24. [Correct]
The concert is happening on Friday, Nov. 24th, 2010. [Incorrect.]
- Do not include any additional spacing between paragraphs and avoid indents. Indesign does this all for us. Also, **DO NOT double space after a period**. One will do just fine.
- Commas and periods ALWAYS go inside quotation marks, REGARDLESS. i.e. He told



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me he “doesn’t know what I’m doing.”

- HOW TO MAKE A PROPER EM-DASH—In Word on a PC, type the word preceding the dash, type --, then start typing the next word without a space, then after this second word press SPACE and BOOM — the perfect dash. Alternately, on a PC if you're not using word you can type one by holding down the RIGHT-ALT and hitting 0151 in sequence on the number pad. On a Mac, press SHIFT OPTION and - and you will make an em-dash. Simple.
 - Speaking of em-dashes, there should be spaces on both sides of them — like this.
 - Note: em-dashes do not go in place of regular dashes, as in power-pop, indie-rock, etc.

RIGHT

WRONG

nonetheless

none-the-less, none the less

rock 'n' roll

rock 'n roll, rock n roll, rock-n-roll [see previous exception]

'90s

90s, nineties, 90's, Nineties

hip-hop

hip hop, hiphop, hippity hoppity [OK if discussing how a rabbit or frog gets around]

EP, LP

ep, e.p., lp, l.p.

p.m., a.m.

PM, P.M.

a.k.a.

AKA, aka

DIY

d.i.y., d-i-y, D.I.Y.

43-year-old

43 year old, 43-year old, 43 year-old, forty-three-year-old

prog rock

Prog rock, progrock, prog-rock

lo-fi, hi-fi, low fidelity, high fidelity, *High Fidelity* [movie or novel]

lofi, low fi, hifi, high-fi, high fi

frontman, frontwoman, frontperson

front-man, front man, front-woman, front woman, front person, front-person

R&B

rhythm and blues, R & B, r 'n' b

okay

ok, O.K., OK, oh kay

seven-inch

7", seven inch, 7-inch, 7 inch