Submit a Post Plug-In (Blogs@Canisius)

Our Submit-a-Post plug-in option is perfect for individuals who want readers to be able to submit a post to be published on their blog.

Step-by-step guide

Enable the submit-a-post plug-in.

1. Currently, we are using the "AccessPress Anonymous Post Pro" plug-in to allow users to submit-a-post.
2. To activate this plug-in on your blog, please email coli@canisius.edu

Create the form.

1. In your dashboard, go to "AccessPress Anonymous Post Pro" and click "Add New".

2. Under the General Settings:
   a. Add a form title.
   b. Make the publish status 'pending' if you would like to approve all incoming posts. OR just allow the submissions to Publish.
   c. Post format should be Standard.
   d. Submissions should be submitted as a Post.
2. If you would like to receive an email when there is a submission, fill out the Admin Notification section.

![Admin Notification](image)

- **Admin Notification:**
  - Check if you want admin to receive notification email after submitting of a new post.
  - **Add Email Address:**
    - Add your 7 email addresses for the admin notification. Only one admin will receive notification if you don’t add any.

- **Admin Notification Subject:**
  - New Post Submission

- **Admin Notification From Name:**
  - Today at Canius

- **Admin Notification From Email:**
  - noreply@yourhost.com

- **Admin Notification Message:**
  - **Hello There,**
  - A new post has been submitted via AccessPress Anonymous post plugin in your Today at Canius website. Please find details below:
  - **Post Title:** #post_title
  - **Post URL:** #post_url

    ![Admin Notification Message](image)

You can use #post_title, #post_url, admin_url, #author_name, #author_email, #author_url in the above message to get the respective values in the email.

3. If you would like users to receive a notification after their post is published, fill out the User Notification section.

![User Notification](image)

- **User Notification:**
  - Check if you want to notify guest author via email after the post is published.

- **User Notification Subject:**
  - Post Published

- **User Notification From Name:**
  - Today at Canius

- **User Notification From Email:**
  - noreply@yourhost.com

- **User Notification Message:**
  - **Hello There,**
  - Your post has been published in Today at Canius website. Please find details below:
  - **Post Title:** #post_title
  - **Post URL:** #post_url

    ![User Notification Message](image)

Where you can use #post_title, #post_url for sending respective values in the email. The email will only be sent to guest author if author email is also entered from your submission form.

4. The next two items are important. Check to anonymously upload an image so users can upload images with their posts. Also, link to source url.

- **Anonymous image Upload:**
  - Check if you want to allow the guest visitors to upload images in the post content editor.

- **Link to source url:**
  - Check if you want to link the anonymously uploaded image file to its source.

![Anonymous Image Upload](image)

5. The Add Lightbox can be checked or not. The Anonymous image max size can be set or not (if you set this, make sure you choose a size large enough). Check if you’d like to allow users to upload media.

- **Add Lightbox Rel Attribute:**
  - Check if you want to add rel="lightbox" parameter in the source link of the anonymously uploaded image.
  - Please check Link to source URL too to use this feature.

- **Anonymous Image Max Size:**
  - eg: 2

- **Upload Size:**
  - Please enter the maximum allowed upload image size in MB for anonymous user. Default is 2 MB

- **Media Upload:**
  - Check if you want to allow the logged in users to upload media in the rich/visual editor.

![Add Lightbox](image)
i. Assign an author for the post (you may wish to make this a generic/office email/username). Don’t require that this user needs to be logged in. Leave the redirect type and URL as is, unless you have reason to change it. Then, verify the post submission message (or change, as needed).

![Assign Author and Redirect Settings](image)

j. Click “Save all changes”.

k. Next, click on the Form Settings Tab.

![Form Settings](image)

l. Leave the Post Title with default settings unless you have reason to change it.
m. In the Post Content, change the Editor Type to be Rich Text Editor.

n. Leave Post Excerpt as default (not showing), unless you want to give the option for people to fill this part out.

o. Leave post image as default (do not show on form), because we have another option for you for this purpose.
p. In the Author Name tab, click to Show on form and Required, and then provide a label (name) for this option box. (OR choose otherwise.)

![Author Name settings](image1)

q. Leave Author URL as default (not showing), unless you want to give the option for people to fill this part out.

r. In the Author Email tab, click to Show on form and Required, and then provide a label (name) for this option box. (OR choose otherwise.)

![Author Email settings](image2)

s. If you have Categories, click to Show on form and Required, then provide a label (name) for this option box and Show field as "Checkbox". (OR choose otherwise.)

![Categories settings](image3)

t. If you have Tags, do the same as above, otherwise, leave as is to not show.

![Tags settings](image4)
u. Now we will add a Custom Field (on the right of the same Form Settings tab). Enter “File Upload” in both the label and meta key, then Add Field.

v. Next, select to Show on Form and then make the Field Type “File Uploader”.
w. Then, select all of the checkboxes for media type. Type in "Attach a File" for the Upload Button Label. Then check the boxes for 'multiple file upload' and 'attach media to post'.

x. Next, you may wish to arrange these in a preferred order. We recommend:
   1. Post title
   2. Post content
   3. Post image
   4. File Upload
   5. Author Name
   6. Author Email
   7. Categories
   8. Tags
   9. Author URL
   10. Post Excerpt

Lastly, add this form a page on your blog.

1. Copy the Shortcode at the top of the form or on the Anonymous Forms area of the dashboard. (It looks something like this:)

   ![Shortcode Image]

   **Shortcode:** [ap-form id="2"]

2. Then, go to Pages>Add New.
3. Add a page titled Submit (or something similar).
4. Then, paste in the form code and include any directions you want to give people before this code. Click Publish.

5. Make sure that this page appears on your navigation bar.

Publish the pending posts.
1. When the submissions come in, they will be marked as pending on the posts page.

2. Hover under the post and click ‘Edit’.

3. Make any edits you want to make to the post and then click ‘Publish’.
4. Or, click 'Edit' to schedule the post. Enter the date/time and then click 'OK'. The 'Publish' button changes to a 'Schedule' button. Click 'Schedule'.

To get started with your blog at Canisius, please visit our Blogs@Canisius Wiki.

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