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Submission to Literary Journals.docx

Kiel M. Gregory
SUNY Binghamton

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KIEL M. GREGORY

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this handout on submitting to literary journals
was adapted and condensed from a workshop syllabus
which was likely adapted and condensed elsewhere

we writers
we do this to each other

it's in our history,
which is to say,
our blood

let's pretend
your predicament is serious,
is recent poetry,
and you feel small,
vulnerable, publishable

you, mildly familiar with the world,
are feeling lucky, punk

you think your skin,
like armor
against the inevitable rejection,
sufficient

believe it—
you are a poem

let that last stanza breathe
 give it space on the page
 to seize doubt

let your courage strength raw unjustified belief
carry you to empty fields
populated with contact information
and cover letters
which we will cover next class

remember to be kind
 and the right kind of cool:
 read work
published in previous issues

(and)
 the guidelines