Anthologies of American literature have moved female protest poets of the 1930s, such as Muriel Rukeyser and Genevieve Taggard, towards the center of modernist discourse. Literary critics have since debated the quality of Taggard’s writing. This essay reconsiders Taggard’s writing in the context of her collection of poetry Calling Western Union’s hybrid structure, especially its framing devices and filmic, photographic, and musical elements. In effect, this essay exposes the aesthetic and rhetorical nuances of Taggard’s writing and clarifies why her writing deserves space in anthologies of modern American literature.

Genevieve Taggard was born November 28, 1894, Waitsburg, Washington. She grew up in Hawaii where her parents built and ran a large "Multi-cultural" school, they were missionaries. She obtained a scholarship which allowed her to attend the University of California at Berkeley, she graduated in 1919. Throughout Taggard's life she was involved in many causes and organizations ranging from Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, the United Committee to Aid Vermont Marble Workers, and the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. She was the executive council of the League of American Writers, a member of the New York Teachers Union, and the U.S.-Soviet Friendship Committee. Biblio: American Modern Poetry. Read more →.

Born in Waitsburg, Washington, Genevieve Taggard was raised in Hawaii, where her parents ran a school. Taggard attended the University of California at Berkeley on a scholarship. In addition, she was a member of the New York Teachers Union, the League of American Writers, and the U.S.-Soviet Friendship Committee. In addition to her work as a social activist, Taggard was also deeply interested in radio and music. Fascinated by the intersections between poetry and music, Taggard also wrote many poems that were later scored by such composers as William Shuman, Aaron Copeland, Roy Harris, and Henry Leland Clarke. After more than a decade of marriage, Taggard and Robert Wolf divorced in 1934. Genevieve Taggard (November 28, 1894 in Waitsburg, Washington – November 8, 1948 in New York City) was an American poet. Genevieve Taggard was born to James Taggard and Alta Arnold, both of whom were school teachers. Her parents were both active members of the Disciples of Christ, and at age two her parents moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, where they became missionaries and founded a school in which they also taught. Genevieve Taggard (November 28, 1894 - November 8, 1948) was an American poet, best remembered today for her biography of Emily Dickinson. Taggard was born in Waitsburg, Washington, to Alta (Arnold) and James Taggard, both of whom were school teachers. Her parents were both active members of the Disciples of Christ, and when she was two moved with her to Honolulu, Hawaii, where they became missionaries and founded a school in which they also taught. Genevieve Taggard began writing poetry at the age of 13.