



## PACE Writing Mentorship Program Application Sample Guidelines

Writing samples will be evaluated based on the following characteristics:

1. **Original work:** Sample questions must be your own work, and cannot have been used or submitted in other contexts or lifted (plagiarized) from others. This includes taking questions or clues directly from previous quizbowl questions.
2. **Formatting:** Sample questions should be written in standard PACE format. See an example of it [here](#) or in any NSC packet from the last few years. You do not need to include pronunciation guides or power marks (as editors are responsible for them).
3. **Length:** Tossups should be between 650 and 750 characters in length (includes spaces, but does not include the answerline, power marks, pronunciation guides, or extra directives). Bonuses should be less than 675 characters.
4. **Category selection:** Please vary your chosen categories to some extent, and include categories that you aim to work on during the mentorship. You can choose any category that appears in NSC (i.e. no "trash"), but avoid over-relying on general knowledge or mixed-category questions. Put a category tag below each question.
5. **Difficulty:** Write your tossups in line with the difficulty of the last three years of PACE NSC sets. Bonuses should have three parts, and it should be clear which part is meant to be easy, medium, and hard. (You can even mark the parts with [E/M/H].)
6. **Proofreading:** Questions are in proper English and free of grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors. All clues should be factual and uniquely point to the answer.
7. **Comprehensibility:** Good questions are written in a way that it is always clear for moderators to read and players to follow (see [this diagram](#)). Consider reading your questions out loud to yourself, and think about how easily a player or moderator would be able to digest the information aloud.

Do not share your question samples with other players at any point.

If you have any questions about your writing sample prior to submission, please email [quizbowl@ophir.li](mailto:quizbowl@ophir.li).