

Consilience Style Sheet for Authors

Please read and follow this style sheet carefully before submitting your work. We receive a large number of submissions and can only consider those that meet these guidelines. Thank you for taking the time to prepare your poem and accompanying materials in the *Consilience* format.

An example submission is provided at the end of this guide.

General Formatting

- Your submission should **include a poem, science statement, and biographical statement, all in one document.**
- Use [British spelling conventions](#) in the science statement and biographical statement.
- The poem may use **any spelling convention.**
- Use Arial, 12 pt font throughout.
- Check grammar throughout your submission.
- Save your submission as a **.doc or .docx file.**
- Use the following filename format: **Title_Surname.docx** (e.g. *Gravity_Smith.docx*).

Poem

- The poem may be in any style.
- May use any spelling convention.
- Single spaced and formatted in Arial, 12 pt font (exceptions can be made for creative reasons, e.g. visual/concrete poems).
- Maximum of 40 lines, excluding blank lines, title and epigraph.

Science Statement and Biographic Statement

- These should be included as part of your submission. Please see below for an example.
- Single spaced in Arial, 12 pt font. Double space only between sections and titles.
- Use British spellings.
- Place titles of articles and poems inside single quotation marks.
- Italicise titles of journals, books, and chapbooks.
- Include hyperlinks in the body to allow readers to research your topic further.
- Double check that hyperlinks are correct and active before submitting.
- Spell out abbreviations and acronyms in full the first time they appear.
- Science statement: ideally around 100 words, maximum 200 words. This should also make clear why the poem fits to the current theme of the issue
- Biography: maximum 100 words and written in the third person.

Example Submission

When Bats Carry the Cure

They touch
in flick-skin intervals –
wing-to-wound,
a brief grooming
passed without notice.
The reach spreads
through tail-cling
and fang-glance,
each contact
a question asked
in smear.
What we call
containment
is mostly timing –
how long
a mouth forgets
its purpose,
how much heat
a body
can carry
before it starts
to give way.
In this
skin-trade
of defences,
a new kind
of message
takes root.

The Science

This poem is inspired by [recent research](#) into a new approach to controlling rabies in vampire bats. In Latin America, these bats are the main source of rabies outbreaks that harm both livestock and people, and control efforts have long relied on culling. Scientists have now tested a gel-based vaccine that spreads naturally as bats groom each other. In field trials with wild colonies in rural Mexico, applying the gel to only one in five bats led to more than 85% of the colony receiving it. The vaccine remained stable in harsh conditions and was easier to apply than older methods. This work shows how understanding and using social behaviour can provide a humane and effective alternative to culling, transforming a source of infection into a route to immunity.

The Poet

Professor Sam Illingworth is an Edinburgh-based poet and academic whose work involves exploring the intersections between poetry and science Find out more about Sam's work and research at www.samillingworth.com.