Meducator Article Writing Guide: *MeduAmplify Piece*

Last updated August 2022

MeduAmplify Piece: The *MeduAmplify Piece* article format is designed for undergraduate students who wish to deliver an educated synthesis on a pressing social, political, or economic topic related to health sciences, particularly the healthcare system and health policies. The piece should focus on providing a voice for scientists, civilians, or communities directly affected by the topic being presented. For example, it may employ scientific articles written by Asian individuals in a piece about Asian discrimination in healthcare. The topics must be current and impactful on the scientific community within and/or outside McMaster University. The article should begin with background on the selected topic to provide readers with an understanding of the topic's development and status. The remainder of the article should highlight an informed and well-researched analysis of the topic, while also presenting and evaluating multiple contrasting perspectives and implications of the topic. Please note that due to the potentially sensitive nature of the subjects discussed, authors are encouraged to contact *The Meducator* in advance if needed.

Audience: The audience of an *MeduAmplify Piec*e article is the general student body. As such, it is important to write the article in a manner that is clear, coherent and understandable to individuals who have had no previous exposure to the topic discussed. The article should convey the aspects of the topic that impact the communities and individuals in question. It is strongly recommended that the author makes use of sources directly from individuals belonging to said affected communities.

Peer-review process: Please provide the contact information of 2-3 experts in the field who can potentially review your article.
  ● The expert reviewer must be a senior graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, or professor.
  ● The reviewer does not necessarily need to be affiliated with McMaster University.
  ● It is not necessary for the author to have previously worked with or known the reviewer.

Word Limit: 1,000 to 1,200 words (not including references and acknowledgements)

The following offers a general outline for what to include in a MeduAmplify Piece article. The content of the article (4-6 below) need not be explicitly split into those three sections; they are merely for reference as a guideline.

1. Article Title: (maximum 100 characters) Provide a captivating and concise title for your piece. Titles should not include numbers, abbreviations, or acronyms.

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2. Author and program of study: The author's full name must be provided. Their program of study and class of graduation should be indicated below their name(s), as well as their affiliated university.

For example:
> **Mustafa Ahmadzai**
> Honours Biology & Pharmacology, Class of 2022
> McMaster University

3. Abstract: (**optional**, maximum 200 words) The abstract should provide a short summary of the content discussed in the article, including brief descriptions of the point of discussion, its development, the multiple perspectives on this issue, any solutions or next steps, and its potential implications for the field.

4. Introduction: The introduction should take on a broad approach. It should provide the context, background, and history of the topics discussed, describe why the topic is relevant, and briefly outline the factors to consider and any possible solutions which may be discussed further in the piece.

5. Evaluation of the multiple research sources within the Topic: The author should provide a thorough, well-informed discussion and analysis of the various factors involved, perspectives, and relevant statistical information on the topic. This piece is not meant to be a political or opinion piece, but rather a scientific narrative review. Evidence from peer-reviewed literature must be used to support each point. To create a robust piece, the author is heavily encouraged to include relevant quotes and describe studies. The author should be particularly careful in speaking of different demographics with dignity and respect, and should strongly consider using primary sources originating from the spoken of communities themselves. If discussing an issue, the author should also try to provide evidence-based solutions currently being used or that should be used in the future.

6. Conclusion: The article should close with a summarization of the various sources of information, future avenues for further inquiry, as well as recommendations if applicable. The significance and implications of the topic explored by the piece should be discussed.

7. Acknowledgements: Authors may include a brief "acknowledgements'' section to thank any individuals or organisations who are not listed authors, but have aided in the production of the manuscript.

8. References: In-text citations and reference lists should be in Vancouver Citation style. The Meducator uses a slightly modified version of Vancouver citations. Please refer to the following guide for

details.

In-text Citations: The Vancouver referencing style for in-text citations involves use of numerical superscript endnotes that refer to a reference list at the end of the article. References are each numbered, and ordered sequentially as they appear in the text, figures and tables. Each reference can only have one corresponding number. For a given sentence, the superscript numbers are provided after the punctuation (such as periods and commas).

Reference List: The reference list must have the references listed numerically in the order that they were annotated in-text. Additional resources that were not referenced in-text may also be included as references in the reference list. Authors are expected to reference only peer-reviewed journal articles. Authors are reminded that the majority of their citations must be primary research articles (rather than reviews).

9. **Figures and Tables:** (maximum of 3) The author may include any relevant images, tables, or graphs that are important to the narrative of the article and should refer to them in the text (e.g., "see Figure X"). These images should be appropriately labelled with a figure number, figure title and caption. If the image is adapted or taken directly from another source, it must be referenced using Vancouver Citation style. Note: any figure submitted to us, with the exception of photographs or when explicit permission has been granted, will be re-composed by our graphics team for copyright reasons.

It is *highly* recommended that the author submits at least one figure. An emphasis will be placed on original data synthesis, such as compiling data from multiple sources, inserting self-made tables or charts, etc.

Figure Captions: (maximum 250 words) Figure and table captions should provide a brief description of all of the labelled components in the figure and/or table. They are to be referenced the same manner as the body text (Vancouver style in-text citations). Figure captions must be placed *below* figures, whereas table captions should be placed *above* the table. Additionally, tables should be labelled separately from figures, and should follow an independent numbering sequence from figures (i.e. "TABLE 1" in place of "FIGURE 1").

The following is an example of a figure caption:

FIGURE 1: Cross-section of the bronchus. Airflow into the lungs is controlled by the degree of lumen constriction, a process regulated by the bronchial smooth muscle layer. In asthmatic patients, these cells exhibit heightened sensitivity and constrict prematurely in response to allergens and pollutants, thereby occluding airflow into the lungs. [1]

The following is the standard Meducator formatting protocol. It is expected that you ensure that your manuscript meets these requirements prior to submission.

1. Text Style

Articles must be set in Times New Roman. The body of the text should be in size 12. Headings must be in size 15. Subheadings must be in size 14. Pages should be single-spaced with standard 1-inch margins. Place your name, your program, the date, and the title of the manuscript in the header on each page. Page numbers should be added on the bottom right-hand corner.

It is encouraged that the body of the article is divided under section headings for better organisation and flow. Section headings should be written concisely and bolded.

2. Language and Spelling

All articles must be written in English with Canadian spelling.

3. Acronyms and abbreviation

Acronyms and abbreviations for specific terms may be employed throughout the article as long as they are clearly defined in brackets the first time they appear and are used to refer to all subsequent occurrences of the term.

4. Scientific conventions

Authors are expected to follow the scientific conventions appropriate in the relevant field. For example, all names of bacteria should be italicised, and any image of a protein structure indicated as a figure should have a black background and be referenced to a protein databank (PDB) ID number.

5. Units

It is expected that authors use the metric unit system. Authors should leave a space before the units (e.g. "20 m/s" rather than "20m/s").

6. Numbers

When used in text (rather than as data in a figure), numbers below 10 should be written as words and numbers 10 and above should be written numerically. For example, the number "5" should be written as "five", but the number "25" should be written as "25".

7. Quotations

Any quotations included in-text should use " and "rather than ' and ', and should be appropriately referenced.