

Notes for New Undark Writers

1. Undark is pro-nutgraf, so be sure to have a clear and concise one somewhere in your first section. Your editor is happy to take a look at it and provide feedback in advance of the first draft due date.
2. Aim to break your draft into several subsections (no need to write sub-headlines, as we only do section breaks on our site).
3. Show your work wherever possible, which means including attributions, hyperlinks, etc. (These shouldn't necessarily be fact-checking hyperlinks, but relevant links that will eventually be in the final story to help show the reader additional context. Ex: scientific papers, relevant news articles, etc.)
4. Undark does not allow quotation reviews. Our fact-checkers will verify quoted material during the fact-checking process against transcripts, recordings, or reporting notes. Fact-checkers may also email or call sources to discuss details that are unclear or seem incorrect. However, they will not run direct quote wording by sources, except in very limited circumstances.
5. Please do not alter quotations or use ellipses inside of quotations. Use paraphrase instead.
6. As stated in the Undark assignment confirmation, writers are not deputized to grant anonymity to any sources without prior discussion and permission from Undark. If a request for anonymity should arise, please contact your editor right away.
7. A heads up about the fact-checking process: Once we have a final draft in hand, a fact-checker will be in touch requesting sources to verify your piece (e.g. relevant article links, interview records, and other notes). No need to gather those materials quite yet, but keeping track of sources may save time later on.
8. Timeliness is important to us. Please aim to meet the deadlines that you set with your editor. If it turns out that you could use a little extra reporting time, we ask that you let us know as far in advance as possible.