

# Why you (yes, you) should write for the EA Forum

*A companion to the EAGx talk*

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## Writing Prompts

- What's something you know more about than almost anyone?
- What's something most people in the EA community don't know?
- What's something most people in the EA community are wrong about?
- What's something about EA that confuses you?
- Where did you most recently donate? What led you to make that decision?
- Have you ever hired anyone? What would you tell someone who wanted to apply for the kind of job you hired for?
- What have you learned about during your career that people in EA should know about?
- Have you tried to explain EA to anyone recently? How did it go? Were there certain frames/phrasings that you would or wouldn't recommend, based on your experience?
- Have you read any good books/articles about EA-adjacent topics lately? What did you learn that other people here should know?
  - Is there something you want to learn about? Ask people for recommended resources!
- What have you been talking about in all your meetings this weekend?
- What's a cause area or intervention you don't know has been written about, that you wish someone *would* write about? (There's a [thread](#) for sharing that sort of thing.)

## Resources

### Getting help with your writing

- I offer free [editing and feedback](#) on ideas and drafts for EA Forum posts
- The [EA Editing and Review](#) Facebook group

- “This group is for any writer part of effective altruism to share, source, and seek internal review before publications of any piece of writing they have in the works, including ones not directly related to effective altruism if they wish.”
- My favorite book on composition: [On Writing Well](#), by William Zinsser

## Learning about the Forum

- Our [About page](#) outlines general rules and principles for using the Forum
  - Please let me know if you think we should add or change anything!

## Contacting me

- Questions about the Forum, the EA Newsletter, or anything else related to getting involved with EA contact? Reach out: [aaron.gertler@centreforeffectivealtruism.org](mailto:aaron.gertler@centreforeffectivealtruism.org)
  - If you ever wonder “Is this worth emailing Aaron about, or is it not ‘important’ enough?” — the answer is “yes, please email me!”

## Posts referenced in the presentation

*And other posts I think serve as good examples of a certain “type” of post.*

- Asking people to consider career change
  - [Information security careers for GCR reduction](#)
  - [Why and how to start a for-profit company serving emerging markets](#)
  - [There are a \\*bajillion\\* jobs working on plant-based foods right now](#)
- Starting conversations
  - [Growth and the case against randomista development](#)
  - [Are we living at the most influential time in history?](#)
  - [Reducing long-term risks from malevolent actors](#)
  - [After one year of applying to EA jobs: it is really, really hard to get hired by an EA organisation](#)
- Literature reviews // research posts
  - [When can I eat meat again?](#)
  - [Ingredients for creating disruptive research teams](#)
  - [Invertebrate sentience: A useful empirical resource](#)
- Book reviews // summaries
  - [Progress book recommendations](#)
  - [Key points from “The Dead Hand”](#)
- Changing one’s mind
  - [Global development interventions are generally more effective than climate change interventions](#)
- Answering questions
  - [All posts under the “Ask Me Anything” tag](#)
- Asking questions
  - [The highest-karma questions from the Forum’s history](#)
  - [The most recent questions asked on the Forum](#)
- Other great posts

- [All posts that have won an EA Forum Prize](#)

## Some thoughts on writing posts

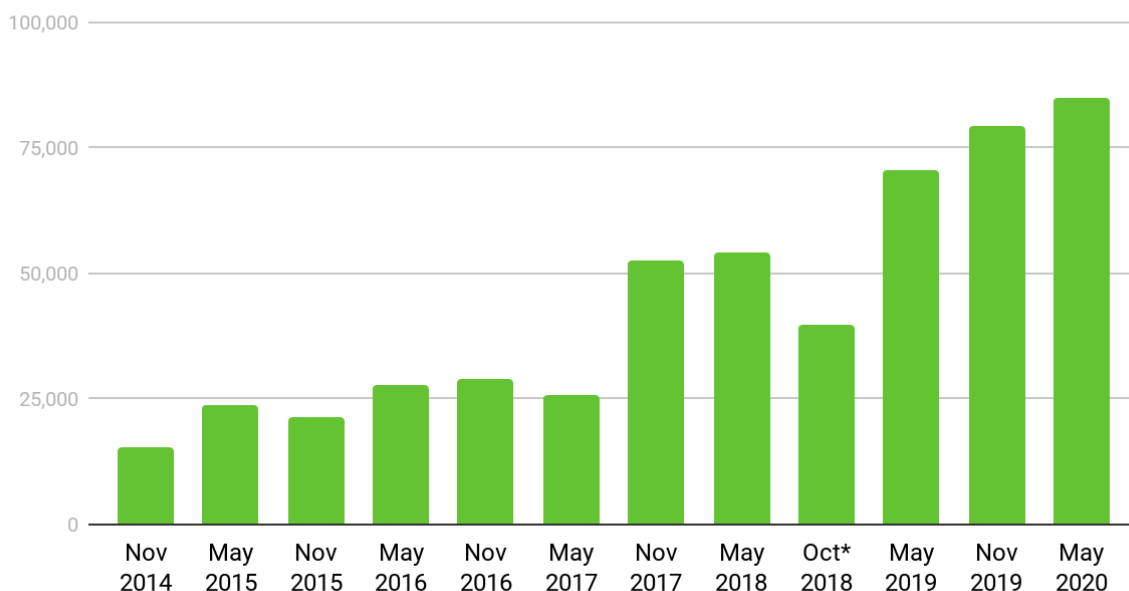
**Before you publish:** Try printing your post out on paper and reading it out loud to yourself. These are both ways to make familiar text seem new again, which makes it easier to catch things that your eyes may have skimmed past many times on a screen.

**Before you publish:** Write a brief summary of the key points of your post (a few sentences or bullet points) and put it at the top of the post. This lets readers more easily figure out whether they want to invest time in reading the post, and lets you draw attention to a few key points (action items, counterintuitive ideas, etc.)

**After you publish:** Are there any questions you'd like readers to answer for you? If so, try putting each question in a separate comment at the end of the post. That makes it easier to coordinate discussion around certain questions.

## Notes on Forum readership

### Unique pageviews



*The new Forum was launched on a different website in mid-November 2018, so I've used pageview data from October 2018 for the old website. All data after that comes from the new website.*

*Also, while the Forum opened to the community in 2013, I currently only have access to Analytics data from mid-2014 and on.*

Forum user JimmyJ collected [statistics](#) on user registrations and new posts from the beginning of the Forum through mid-2019.

EA Forum articles have been linked to by Marginal Revolution (may be the most popular economics/generally “intellectual” blog on the Internet) at least six times — mostly in “daily links” posts, but once with a post about [Luisa Rodriguez’s writing on nuclear war](#), and once with a post about [Will MacAskill’s idea for a new voting system](#).