Meducator Article Writing Guide: *Global Perspective*

Last updated August 2021

Description: The *Global Perspective* article allows undergraduate students to share their *first-hand experiences* working with and integrating into a community, whether it is a local community in Hamilton or a foreign community overseas. focus of the article should be on a health-related issue(s) the community faces. The author should provide adequate background on the issue for a meaningful discussion. The author must describe his/her specific role and contributions within the community, obstacles and barriers to health care in the community, and discuss future goals or points for improvement. Although the article may be a first-person account, the author should take care to provide well-informed and evidence-based accounts of the communities, cultures, and societies involved. The focus of the article should be on the community and the author's interactions with the community. Please note that individuals included in the article (other than the author) should remain anonymous unless consent is explicitly granted by these individuals.

Audience: The audience of a *Global Perspective* 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 little knowledge of the communities or health issues discussed. The article should convey aspects of the topic that interest the author, and will give readers a deeper appreciation of the varying health care states in different communities.

Note: If, while working with a specific community, the author conducted primary research and wishes to include data in the manuscript, the article may be better suited as a *Research Insight*. In this case, please email the.meducator@gmail.com to discuss which article type is more suitable.

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: Word Limit: 1,200 to 1,400 words (not including references and acknowledgements)

The following offers a general outline for what to include in a Global Perspective article. The content of the article (3-5 below) need not be explicitly split into those three sections; the sections are merely 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 2012
> McMaster University

3. Introduction: The introduction should describe the nature of the author's work with the community, as well as provide some context and/or history of the community.

4. Personal Experiences and Health Topics: The author should discuss some of the main health care obstacles faced by the community and elaborate on their *first-hand experiences* working with the members of that community. Since this is a first-person account, the author is encouraged to use a combination of anecdotes and research-informed statements to effectively convey a point.

5. Conclusion/Future Steps: The section should discuss the future goals, plans, and developments of the community with regards to health care. If applicable, the author may also outline personal plans to follow-up with the community. Finally, this section should include lessons that the author has learnt from the experience, how the community's work may impact health care locally or globally, etc. The author is encouraged to view their experience in the 'bigger picture'.

6. Acknowledgements: Authors may include a brief "acknowledgements" section to thank any individuals or organisations who are not listed authors, but have contributed to the manuscript or enriched the author's experience with the community. In the case of *Global Perspective* articles, it is expected that authors acknowledge any travel scholarships or funding that have supported them in pursuing this experience.

7. 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.

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

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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).

8. **Photographs and/or Images:** (approximately 1-4 required) The author should include relevant photographs or images that are important to the narrative of the article. These images should be at a reasonable resolution (recommended 300 dpi or higher), and must be submitted with a title and captions to give the picture context; referring to the picture in-text is optional. If the image is adapted or taken directly from another source, it must be referenced using the 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.

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.