

STILLP • INT

DIGITAL MAGAZINE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

NOTES ON STYLE FOR DISCURSIVE CONTRIBUTORS

BUILDING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

Stillpoint Magazine's mission is to foster and support public knowledge through challenging, experimental, yet accessible texts that integrate specialized concepts from intellectual history, especially where those concepts connect to, or extend, psychoanalytic discussions. Accessibility can take many forms, so we ask all contributors to help us manifest this mission. To support readability for a general audience, and to support our small editorial team as we collaborate with you to hone your essay, we strongly suggest that discursive texts follow these basic, broad guidelines:

- Begin with a powerful introduction, and after a clear “body” of the text, end with and a strong, clear conclusion.
- Present a clear thesis or statement of purpose consistent with the ideas the essay goes onto discuss or prove (even in scholarly texts, the thesis and body of the text are often not aligned in early drafts).
- Work to maintain clear, precise, and concise sentence structure and simple word-choice.
- Consider using short paragraphs, which should be thought of as “idea units”: this helps both for readability generally and specifically for digital spaces.
- Limit specialized concepts to approximately six or less. Always define specialized concepts on their first use. Use consistent and clear terminology to describe or signify concepts.

BASICS OF STYLE

We ask that you provide texts that are, as much as possible, free from basic errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar. For grammar and punctuation, we follow a modified MLA format and use standard American spelling & punctuation rules.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND WORKS CITED

Stillpoint Magazine uses a modified MLA style and for in-text citation and for Works Cited. For in-text references of other texts and authors, please indicate the author and text using a “signal phrase” rather than a parenthetical note or footnote. When referencing an author in the first instance, please give the full name. Please provide a complete works-cited list for your essay following MLA formatting.

EDITORIAL PROCESS: STEPS

1. You will provide our Editorial team a two to three sentence summary of your essay in the early stages of the drafting process, by our editorial deadline. This will allow us to begin the curatorial process of researching and selecting visual artworks to juxtapose with texts.

2. You will provide the first draft of your essay to our editorial team by a mutually-determined deadline. Our team will use Google Docs to edit your essay in the “suggesting” mode and using comments. We ask that you work in the same document, so as to avoid duplicate versions and errors. If you have any questions about using Google Docs, you can check out Google’s basic how-to [here](#). Within approximately a week, we will return your working draft to you with global, conceptual, structural, and sentence-level questions, suggestions, and edits. We will provide a second deadline to you at that time.

3. While we finalize your draft with a second round of revisions, we ask that you produce an abstract of approximately two hundred words, which will appear at the beginning of your essay to orient readers to what will follow.

4. We will give you the opportunity to confirm and check any remaining edits, questions, and suggestions. After this, the third draft may receive minor corrections to produce a clean copy, which our editors will approve independently as they will not change the nature of the text at that stage.

If there is a need for more than three drafts, we will discuss this with you.

~ Version: January 2021