

Style Guide

AUKUS Essay Collection

Nuts and bolts. The manuscript should be in Times New Roman, 12-point font with 1.5-line spacing. For our Security and Defence PLoS blog, we prefer submissions between 1,500-2,000 words.

No jargon. We want your articles to be widely read and understood, so please don't use language that is only comprehensible to military personnel, civilians working in the Pentagon, or people who have taken a methodology class. This includes the use of acronyms and initialisms, only a few of which are acceptable: NATO, ISIL (not ISIS), and FY20XX. It is better to spell them out or use other terms, including common nouns.

Do not assume knowledge on behalf of the reader. Not all readers will share your particular expertise. Please take care to explain concepts and contexts that are basic for your area of specialty — without dumbing them down.

Cite your work. Any factual statements (speeches, statistics, events, etc.) and arguments of other thinkers should be cited with an embedded hyperlink wherever possible. For a book, a link to its Amazon or Google Books page will do. When citation via hyperlink is not possible because the source is not available online (for example, an interview you conducted or an email exchange), you should try hard to refer to the source in your text. Do not use footnotes or endnotes. Do not insert the URLs into comment bubbles or in parentheses in the text. Facts that are common knowledge for you and your peers may not be common knowledge for our readers. Please place the hyperlink over the words or phrases that you might use to search for the source on Google. For example, if you are citing Secretary of Defense Ash Carter's letter on the Littoral Combat Ship to Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus in this very sentence, you would put the hyperlink over "letter on the Littoral Combat Ship" or "Carter's letter to Mabus" rather than "letter."

Avoid unnecessary capitalization. It is the U.S. government, not the U.S. Government. It is soldier, not Soldier. We usually defer to AP style on these issues, but in this case have sided with the most recent [U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual](#).

British/American English Spellings. Either British or American English spellings are acceptable, we just ask that you remain consistent throughout the essay. The exception to this is when referring specifically to U.K., Australian, or U.S. organizations, use the appropriate spelling (e.g. Australian Department of Defence or U.S. Department of Defense).

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Other notes on style. Please spell out “United States” when used as a noun. “U.S.” is an adjective (for example, the “U.S. government.”) The same rule goes for the European Union vs. E.U. and the United Nations vs U.N., etc.

Format. Submissions should be emailed as Word attachments (not Google Docs) to rshaw9@asu.edu and ejohns97@asu.edu with “SUBMISSION” in the subject line.