

# Contributor Guidelines: FAQ

## **What kind of things should I write about?**

We want to make history accessible, relevant and interesting. You can write about anything that interests you that is of historical relevance. What is key is being able to tie a historical event, figure, period of time etc. to the present day and explain why it is important and relevant. Focus on answering the 'so what?' question in your article.

## **How long should my article be?**

In order to increase readability and accessibility, we typically aim for our articles to be between 800 and 1,000 words long.

## **How should I format it?**

Please send us your draft article in Word format, with your name at the top. If you need to reference a source, write your citation number at the end of the sentence, and include a link to the source at the end in your bibliography. For instance:

To see an example of a history blog, check out History Matters. [1]

[1] [History Matters](#)

## **How should I structure my blog post?**

Write your entry as a standalone piece, using short paragraphs made up of four or five sentences. As with journalistic pieces 'lead with the best' - don't save your main argument or analysis for the end of the post. Try to present all of your argument and evidence within the text and avoid relying too heavily on information contained in external sources.

## **So is this an academic essay?**

Nope! We want the articles to be written with a relatively wide audience in mind, including non-history students and other non-academics, so we would like you to write in a more natural style. Use your own voice (first person), and avoid overusing acronyms and academic terms, such as Latin words, or specific terminology that may not be well known outside disciplinary circles. Also avoid saying things like "in this paper I will...", or "this paper aims to...", and go straight into your discussion of the topic.

## **Additional notes**

- Title and subtitle: Your suggestions are welcome, but we must "own" the title and sub-title to make sure they fit our format and presentation style.
- The submission of an article does not guarantee its publication.
- If we decide to publish your piece, we'll ask you for a short, one-sentence bio from you to include on the website.