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### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS (CMS)**

*SASS* is the journal of the Society for the Study of the American Short Story. It publishes articles, notes, reviews, interviews, memoirs, and other materials related to short fiction in America. It is aimed at literary scholars, students of literature, libraries, and general serious readers. It covers all forms of American short fiction in English from its origin in the eighteenth century to the present. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, nationality, ethnicity, or any other reason.

#### **General Submission Criteria**

- The journal uses a double anonymous review process; please remove all references to or clues about your identity as author(s) from the main text and footnotes. (The only exceptions to this policy are Responses and Discussions where the identity of the author is needed and/or appropriate.)
- Tables, figures, appendixes, and photos must be submitted as separate files / documents from the article text.
- Authors must provide **alt text** to describe image content to enable accessibility for those using screen readers. Please see the **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on page 7** for further information on writing alt text.
- Submissions should be accompanied by an abstract of up to 200 words to be entered directly on the Editorial Manager submission interface and on the first page of your manuscript.
- Submit 3-5 key words selected carefully to allow for maximum discoverability.
- Articles manuscripts should be 18 to 25 pages in length.
- Notes should be 8 to 12 pages in length.

- Other kinds of material, including interviews, manuscripts, photographs, and letters are also encouraged.
- Articles and notes should be written in third person; reviews, memoirs, interviews, and personal reflections should be in first person.
- Please prepare an author biography of up to 150 words.
- Authors are responsible for securing permissions and paying the required fees for the use of any material previously published elsewhere. Copies of permission letters should be sent to the Pennsylvania State University Press or the journal editor.
- Authors guarantee that the contribution does not infringe any copyright, violate any other property rights, or contain any scandalous, libelous, or unlawful matter.
- Authors guarantee that the contribution has not been published elsewhere and is not currently under consideration elsewhere.
- Authors have completed the **final submission checklist** on **page 8** of this guide.

### **Manuscript Format**

- Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word files.
- All text, including notes and works cited should be formatted in Times New Roman font, size 12 point, with double line spacing throughout.
- Length: 1,500 to 4,000 words.
- Paragraph indentation by tab only, not space bar or paragraph indent function.
- Number pages at the bottom right.
- No function of “Track Changes” should be in use. Please check your document for any remaining tracked changes, hidden text, or comments, and delete them.
- “Style” field should read “Normal” throughout text.
- Use “main headings” and “subheadings.”
- Subheads may be placed in italic to distinguish them from a full heading.
- When omitting part of a sentence with an ellipsis, use three periods with a space before, in between and after (“ . . . and . . . ”). When using a four-period ellipsis, the first is a true period, and the following should be spaced as above.

- Epigraphs and extracts from other texts should be set off with line spacing—do not format an indent. On the line after an epigraph, be sure to include the name of the author and the source; do not use an endnote.
- Use single spaces following periods between sentences throughout the manuscript.
- All footnotes to be converted to endnotes, double spaced, and rendered in 12-point Times Roman.
- Tables / figures / appendixes:
  - Must be submitted as separate files / documents from the article text.
  - An indication in the text for placement should be given, for example:
    - <Table 1>, <Figure 2>, <Appendix 1>
  - Figures must be submitted in the original format at the size the author would like them to appear.
  - Tables should be submitted in MS-Word. All tables may be included in one document.
  - Charts and graphs should be submitted in MS-Excel or its original source file.
  - Digital images should be submitted in either .tiff or .jpeg files at 300 dpi at with at least 2.5 inches in width.
  - If possible, all digital files (photos) should be grayscale.
  - Please provide **alt text** for all supplied images, charts, tables, and graphics. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on page 7** for information on writing alt text.

### Style

- Use single spaces following periods between sentences throughout the manuscript.
- Ellipses:
  - When omitting part of a sentence with an ellipsis, use three periods with a space before, in between and after (“ . . . and . . . “).
  - If the end of a sentence is omitted, use four periods, the first immediately following the text, and the following spaced as above.
  - Use a four-dot ellipsis if an entire sentence is omitted.
  - Do not use ellipses at the beginning or end of a quotation.

- Endnotes are used to elaborate on information presented in the article text, e.g. bibliographic information.
  - Endnotes must be numbered consecutively throughout the article and be indicated by the superscript numerals following the punctuation.
  - The endnote numbers at the end of the article should not be superscript text and should be a number followed by a period.
  - All endnote entries must be double-spaced at the end of the article and must appear before references.
  - If a source is cited in a particular endnote, the bibliographic information must be identical to that in the reference list.
  - Automatic formatting is acceptable in endnotes.
- Citations:
  - Manuscripts must consistently conform to *The Chicago Manual of Style, 18th Edition (CMS)*. Examples of reference citations for journal articles and books are shown below. For more examples, please check *CMS*.
  - Books and journals in the text: Reference citations in the article must be enclosed in parentheses and listed alphabetically in the notes.
  - In the case of works by multiple authors, please list up to three authors; for more than three, please list only the first author, followed by et al., as exemplified below:
    - (Poist and Alen 1999; Murphy 2000, 48–51; Pollan, Ward, and Burns 2007; Barnes et al. 2010).
  - Books and journals in the reference list: References citing source materials must be listed at the end of the article and must include, in order, the following information:
    - **Journal - Print:** First author's last name, first name, and Second author's first name, last name. "Title of Article," *Title of Journal* volume no., no. of issue (Year of publication): page numbers.
      - For example: Bischoff, Greg C., Stan Martens, and Will Grimm. "Letters of Edgar Allen Poe," *Contemporary Texts* 14, no. 3 (2009): 232–50.

- **Journal - Online:** Include a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) if the journal lists one. If no DOI is available, list a URL. First author's last name, first name, and Second author's first name, last name. "Title of Article," *Title of Journal* volume no., no. of issue (Year of publication): page numbers, doi.
  - For example: Bischoff, Greg C., Stan Martens, and Will Grimm. "Letters of Edgar Allen Poe," *Contemporary Texts* 14, no. 3 (2009): 232–50, doi: 10.1052/569826. (or: url: <http://www.contemporary.texts.org>.)
- **Books:** Author's last name, first name. *Title of Book*. (Name of publisher, year of publication) Page numbers
  - For example: Geary, Steve D., and Ken B. Vitasek. *The Critical Writings of EA Poe*. Prescott, 2008, 52.
  - For example: Gottfried Bem. *Primal Vision*. Ed. E. B. Ashton; trans. M. Hamburger. Bodley Head, 2004, 89.
- All subsequent references should follow the *CMS* short title format: Author Last name, "Short title", page number(s).
  - For example: Bischoff and Martens, *Letters of Poe*, 235.
- Manuscript references: When referring to manuscripts, the first citation must include the full manuscript information: City, Library, manuscript number, folio number.
- Shortened citation form is preferable to "ibid." in endnotes. See CMOS 18, 13.37.
- For other types of citations, please check the *CMS – Notes and Bibliography*.
- Translations
  - Include translations for all quotations in languages other than English. Translations for individual foreign words, run-in quotes, and block quotes should be in parenthesis.
  - In general, translations should be accompanied by the original quotation in the endnotes.

### **Writing Tips for Abstracts**

An abstract is a self-contained piece of writing that can be understood independently from the article. It must be kept brief (approximately 150–200 words) and may include these elements:

- Statement of the problem and objectives (gap in literature on this topic)
- Thesis statement or question
- Summary of employed methods, viewpoint, or research approach
- Conclusion(s) and/or implications of research

*Keep in Mind...* Depending on your rhetorical strategy, an abstract need not include your entire conclusion, as you may want to reserve this for readers of your article. The abstract should, however, clearly and concisely indicate to the reader what questions will be answered in the article. You want to cultivate anticipation so the reader knows exactly what to expect when reading the article—if not the precise details of your conclusion(s).

**Do**

- State your thesis clearly and as early as possible.
- Provide background information placing your work in the larger body of literature
- Use lucid and concise prose
- Explain the purpose of the work and methods used
- Use keywords and phrases that quickly identify the content and focus of the work
- Mimic the type and style of language found in the original article, including technical language

**Do not**

- Refer extensively to other works
- Add information not contained in the original work
- Define terms
- Repeat or rephrase your title
- Use first-person pronouns in abstract text (e.g., instead of “In this article, I outline,” use “This article outlines”).

**Examples**

The abstract should begin with a clear sense of the research question and thesis.

“While some recent scholars claim to have refuted the relevance of stylometric analysis for Plato studies, new technological advances reopen the question. This article uses two recently completed stylometric analyses of the Platonic corpus to show that advanced artificial intelligence techniques such as genetic algorithms can serve as a foundation for chronological assertions.”

It is often useful to identify the theoretical or methodological school used to approach the thesis question and/or to position the article within an ongoing debate. This helps readers situate the

article in the larger conversations of your discipline.

“The debate among Watts, Koupria, and Brecker over the reliability of stylometry (2009) suggests that . . .” or “Using the definition of style proposed by Markos (2014), this article argues that . . .”

Finally, briefly state the conclusion:

“Through analyzing the results of Watts and Koupria’s genetic algorithmic stylometry, this article demonstrates that they provide solutions to roadblocks previously identified in stylometric analyses of the Platonic corpus for the purposes of developing a reliable chronology. These solutions . . .”

## **PSU PRESS ALT TEXT GUIDE**

Penn State University Press is committed to making its publications accessible to the widest audience possible. The inclusion of alternative text (or “alt text”) will allow those using assistive technology to access the images and other graphic elements (such as tables, charts, graphs, and maps) in the digital formats of articles. Authors are encouraged to submit alt text (and where necessary, extended descriptions) for all images and other graphic elements in their manuscripts. *Note:* If sufficient information about the image is included in the caption or the text, alt text may be unnecessary.

### **General Guidelines for Composing Alt Text**

Alt text should clearly and concisely describe the content and function of an image. Please limit the description to the most important elements of the image. In most cases a one- or two-sentence description, consisting of no more than 250 characters (not including spaces), should suffice. If more than 250 characters are needed to convey the content and function of an image, please provide an extended description in addition to the alt text.

### **Extended Description**

For more complex images and graphic elements (such as graphs, charts, and maps), please provide an extended description with the necessary information. Any visible English text in an image must be transcribed in the extended description. Please note that images requiring an extended description must also have the shorter alt text.

### **Formatting and Submitting Alt Text**

Alt text should be submitted along with captions. The alt text for a figure should be set on a new line after the caption and should be preceded by <alt text>. An extended description, when necessary, should be treated in a similar manner, preceded by <extended description>. When drafting and formatting alt text, you should:

- capitalize acronyms so assistive technology reads them as separate letters and not words (e.g., US versus us);

- avoid complex symbols, such as brackets, quotation marks, dashes, ellipses, and mathematical symbols, as assistive technology does not treat all of these symbols consistently;
- write in complete sentences but avoid overly complex sentence structures.

For examples as well as additional information and resources, see [here](#).



**Final Submission Checklist**

- All authors and coauthors are listed in the submissions interface.
- At least one author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
  - E-mail address
  - Affiliation
  - ORCID number has been provided (if you have one)
- Necessary funding statements have been provided, including funding organization name, the organization's DOI, and grant numbers if you have them.
- All necessary files have been uploaded. Submission must include:
  - Abstracts (150–200 words)
  - Keywords (3–5)
  - Separate image files (tiff, jpg, include relevant captions, **not inserted into Word file**)
  - All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
  - Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided.
- Journal policies detailed in **submission guidelines have been reviewed** and **journal style guide has been followed**.
- Manuscript has been checked for spelling and grammar.
- Manuscript and Notes and or Works Cited sections follow the most recent *Chicago Manual of Style* (18<sup>th</sup> edition) for formatting and language.
- You have used endnotes and not footnotes.
- All references mentioned in the Works Cited list are cited in the text.
- If you only have 1 note or 1 work cited, the sections are called Note or Work Cited (not Notes or Works Cited).
- If your article includes notes, you have used shortened citations instead of *ibid* (See CMOS 18, 13.37).
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet and for image use). Please provide permission documentation to journal editor for images or long text excerpts under copyright.
- All figures have been provided as individual image files (**not inserted into Microsoft Word**) and are 300 dpi at a sizing of at least 2.25 inches wide.
- **Alt text has been provided** to describe all supplied images, tables, and charts. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide** in submission guidelines and reference more information [here](#).
- You have saved your article in a docx file format, not as a PDF or other file format.