

1

OXFORD RESEARCH ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AUTHOR GUIDELINES

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WRITING YOUR ARTICLE

Your article will present rich perspective on the subject for high level readers who will peruse deeper research on their own. The article should track the origin and development of the topic and our understanding of it to current status. This includes key discoveries, fair coverage of contrasting views and debates, significant developments over time, and the questions that currently animate the field. Note that the research encyclopedia is not a journal, and articles are not intended to be research-driven reviews.

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- **Avoid time specific language.** Focus on those controversies and issues within the discipline that will sustain over time. Use specific dates when referring to recent events. Do not use “now” or “today” to indicate context but, instead, use time frames like “the post-Holocene epoch” or “the early 21st century.”
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The title of your article has a significant impact on its discoverability. Your inviting editor has chosen a title that clearly defines the scope of the article in relation to others in the encyclopedia. If you would like to change the title, please consult with your editors and follow these guidelines:

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Your article should be approximately 7,000 – 10,000 words, not including references, unless your inviting editor has instructed otherwise. Please include subsections as necessary to facilitate comprehension, and use no more than three levels. **Level One** headings are in bold. **Level Two** headings are in bold italics. *Level Three* headings are in italics.

Introductory Paragraphs (400 – 500 words)

- Define the topic you will cover and why.
- Outline the areas of science that inform your work. Note how this work fits in the larger context of environmental science.

Part One (2500 – 3500 words)

- Chart our understanding of the topic as it has developed over time: consider when and how the topic appeared and then took on its current form.
- Provide balanced coverage of the context, the controversies, and the debates that have informed and helped to form the topic, and that animate it now.
- Discuss foundational and notable discoveries or advances and those who made them within their context and current perspectives; include biographical details as needed.

Part Two (3500 – 4500 words)

- Present the current state of the science, discipline or areas of study that your article focuses on, including strengths and weaknesses. Include subsections as necessary.
- Refer to work in as many other countries as is sensible.
- You may add material from your own research in moderation.

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- Draw together significant conclusions that assess the field, including strengths and weaknesses.
- Conclude with your judgment on what significant questions remain, are being pursued, or should be pursued.

Citations, References, and Suggested Readings

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