

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.

- **Global perspective.** Your article should reflect international scholarship whenever possible.
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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.”
- **Avoid directional language.** Because the ORE is an online reference, you may link directly to other sections in the text. Do not refer to passages as “above” or “below.” When referring to a subsection, include the specific title of that section. Hyperlinks will be added in the production stage.

Audience

ORE readers are specialists and non-specialists with some understanding of a topical area, including: professionals and researchers in a range of sub-fields, graduate and advanced undergraduate scholars, educators, and others seeking rich perspective on the subject. Readers will have a high level of scientific literacy both within and outside of your field.

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- **Start with the most important key words.** The title should include the key terms a reader will use in search queries. Google weighs the first words in a title more heavily than those words that follow.
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Summary (250 - 500 words)

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Provide 5-10 keywords that describe the contents of the article. Keywords are equivalent to terms in an index in a printed work.

Article Structure

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.

Conclusion (400 – 500 words)

- 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

Cite as necessary using APA (American Psychological Association, 6th edition) style. Citations should be indicated in the text with the author last name and year inside parentheses. Each work cited in the article must correspond with an item in the list of references. During copyediting, your references will not be fact-checked, so please pay special attention to their accuracy. Ensure that all references are full, complete, and consistently formatted.

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