

CITIZEN CRITICS

CALL FOR PAPERS ON RACIAL JUSTICE

The Racial Justice Editors for the newly formed publication collective, *Citizen Critics*, invite contributors to use their expertise in the public sphere. We invite article submissions that analyze the language, rhetorics, and discourses concerning racial justice initiatives, policies, movements, and practices. With a rolling deadline, we accept submissions that offer focus on everything including mass incarceration, police brutality, and Black Lives Matter to Native American erasure from public discourse, Arab Muslim feminist resistance against racialized Islamophobic rhetoric, and local community organizing initiatives against gentrification.

If you have any questions, topic proposals, and/or article submissions, please feel encouraged to send them our way.

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MISSION STATEMENT

We are the citizen critics collective. *Citizen Critics* is a nonpartisan, independent analysis space that promotes critical analysis and discussion of politics and other matters of the public good with a focus on language use, misuse, and abuse. We write and promote work from the academic community and from experts in the myriad desks from which we publish for a broad, global audience. *Citizen Critics* is a not-for-profit collaboration; the small team of editors works with scholars and experts in various fields across the world to craft pieces that appeal to a wide audience. We use our reason in public. Our goal is to provide rigorous but accessible analysis that holds public figures accountable for their discourse and policies.

The *Citizen Critics* website goes live on Inauguration Day.

OUR AUDIENCE

The audience for citizen critics is broad and global. We hope our pieces will reach academics and scholars working at the intersection of politics and discourse but also experts, activists, and citizens outside of our collective seeking fact driven, nonpartisan criticism of current political discourse. Our audience consists of Republicans, Democrats, those who identify with no party or with a U.S based third party, and those from countries without a two party structure.

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Citizen Critics is comprised of a collaboration between scholars and experts across public policy, politics, and the language and discourse of politics. To be a lead author on a piece for *Citizen Critics*, you must be a current expert, researcher, or academic in the field about which you are writing. We do not publish submissions from employees of independent research companies or think tanks. We also do not publish paid or unpaid public relations pieces. Our aim is to provide a fact based, nonpartisan, editorially independent forum.

We have a rigorous editorial process. To publish a piece with *Citizen Critics*, it must be submitted first to at least one of the editors of the Racial Justice desk. It is then reviewed by at least one additional reviewer before it is approved for publication and a last set of style edits are completed. We strive to complete this process quickly. We offer a collaborative editorial process and authors, along with the editors of the desk, will have final approval over the finished product. However, final publication decisions are made by the desk editors and the managing editor. Articles may be pitched to the desk editors.

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Most articles published within the Citizen Critics collective will be 600-1,000 words. We will only publish pieces longer than 1,500 words under extraordinary circumstances. The pieces should employ the following style guidelines:

1. We strive to follow journalistic norms; that means:
 - A. Start with a short, sharp statement of the article's essential facts, in no more than two sentences. End your piece with a takeaway.
 - B. Start with what's new, relevant, or surprising and/or link your research to a current event. Readers want to know five Ws: who, what, where, when, why, and sometimes how.
 - C. The first few paragraphs of the article should make your main point and explain your expertise about this issue (i.e. "I teach classes on X, so I'm qualified to comment on controversy Y.").

- D. Write how people talk. A man should never “disembark from a vehicle” when he can “get out of a car.” Explain complex ideas. Don’t get too technical. Avoid jargon (or explain technical terms as you use them).
2. We utilize in-text hyperlinks for citation purposes. These should be embedded into the piece at each space where an author cites a fact based claim or another text.
 3. Authors should utilize AP style, the basics of which can be found here at the [Purdue Online Writing Lab’s AP Style page](#). *We will allow one exception to AP Style, which is to allow for use of the Oxford comma, at the discretion of an author who would like to use it.*
 4. The guiding principles behind AP Style are: consistency, clarity, accuracy, and brevity.
 5. Any questions about style should be directed to the desk editor or the managing editor. All style final style decisions on a piece will be made by the desk editor in consultation with the author.
 6. If you would like to provide additional resources (e.g. web links, articles, books) for your readers to learn more, then please suggest those at the bottom of your draft.
 7. Suggest a headline for your piece that is engaging, but not clickbaity. The desk editors will make final decisions about a headline for every piece they publish.
 8. Make sure that, if you include images, you only use an image that is in the public domain or creative commons and that you give credit for the photo in the caption.
 9. We can’t help but be biased (we are subjects, not objects after all); HOWEVER we do not write as Democrats or Republicans. Some members of the collective come from both political parties and from no parties. As an author you do not speak for the collective, nor do you speak for a party. You speak for yourself and (hopefully) for reason.

THERE’S NO DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUOUSLY REVIEWING, ACCEPTING, AND PUBLISHING SUBMISSIONS AS WE RECEIVE THEM.