

The Education Forum: Guidelines for Authors

The Education Forum in SCIENCE welcomes opinions and discussion of debates and controversies, emerging trends and innovations, policy analyses and commentaries, and other aspects of education that could appeal to a broad, international audience. Topics can span a broad range, for example, from early childhood learning to academic tenure and adult education and workforce training. A Forum may pertain to formal, school-based issues as well as informal, out-of-school issues.

Authors are encouraged to present clearly and write for a broad audience. The ideal Education Forum article begins with an introductory paragraph that captures the reader's interest and briefly states a main argument and focus. The opening should be general enough to orient the reader not familiar with the specifics of your field. Avoid jargon and special terms of your field, and keep the use of acronyms to a minimum. The body of the Education Forum essay should develop a discussion in a lively manner. By "lively" we don't mean hype and oversimplification. Rather, the editors seek clear, declarative writing that avoids the passive tense, tangled constructions, and needless detail. The final paragraph should draw the piece to a concise conclusion, without restating the text. It should be a conclusion and not a summary.

While we strive to appeal to a general audience, we also ask authors to make clear how the analysis/proposal represents a useful, new contribution to his/her field. That is, rather than providing a general overview of issues that, while new to non-experts, may already be well-known among experts, how might the Forum promote discussion and debate among those already well-versed in the issues?

Education Forum papers are limited to 1 or 2 printed pages in the journal (900 or 1800 words). A modest and selective list of appropriate references should be included (generally no more than 25). The use of one or two figures or tables is encouraged. Avoid lengthy notes, details, or asides that interrupt the flow of the text. We expect that authors will do their best to meet our criteria for a good Education Forum paper, but you should be prepared for extensive editing if the editors feel it necessary. You will have a chance to check galley proofs before publication.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES FOR THE EDUCATION FORUM:

When you are ready, please use our www site specifically designed for submission of manuscripts:
<http://www.submit2science.org/>

Please designate the manuscript to the attention of Brad Wible, Ph.D.

Our manuscript website can accept figures as well as text. Science's art department can work with eps, postscript or pict format if it is a vector based file. If you send a pixel based file, such as a Photoshop, jpeg, eps or a tiff, it must be at least a 300 dpi with a width of about 6 inches.

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NOTE TO AUTHORS:

If you are interested in submitting a novel, rigorous analysis of a particular educational program, intervention, outreach project, experiment, etc., (as opposed to a discussion of broader issues), you are encouraged to consider submission as a Research Report, rather than an Education Forum. Such papers are intended to highlight rigorous, empirical analyses, anchored on a sound theoretical foundation. Instructions for authors can be found at:

http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors/prep/gen_info.dtl

Please designate education research manuscripts to the attention of Pamela J. Hines, Ph.D.