

Epidemic Proportions Submission Guidelines 2018-2019

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Thank you for your interest in writing for *Epidemic Proportions*, Johns Hopkins University's premier undergraduate public health research journal! The following guidelines are to help guide you in formatting your article.

About Epidemic Proportions

Epidemic Proportions is the Johns Hopkins University's only undergraduate public health journal and one of the few across the country. The journal was founded in Fall 2005 and has since cultivated a truly diverse community of public health enthusiasts in the Hopkins community. Our mission is to ultimately highlight research, opinions, and first-hand experiences related to public health through articles that we commission directly from Hopkins undergraduates.

The theme for the 2018-2019 journal will be: REFLECTIONS

*Your article should be based around this theme in some form. If you are not sure if the overall thesis behind your article fits with this theme, contact one of the Editor-in-Chiefs.

If you have any concerns about the style and/or content of your article, take a look at professional journals or past Epidemic Proportions articles on our website. **Please do not hesitate to email us at epidemicproportions@gmail.com with any questions!**

General Guidelines

1. Submission **should not exceed 10 pages in length**, and should be **single-spaced**. **Most submissions fall between 3 to 5 pages in length.**
2. Citations
 - **AMA style format.** Please note that ALL references should be at the end of the article and should be organized in the order that they are used as opposed to alphabetized.
 - Superscript your references within the text. For example:
 1. This is a research statement.¹
 2. The number of the superscripted reference should correspond with the number of the citation listed at the end of the article. Any statements throughout your article referring to source #1 should be superscripted ¹, statements referring to source #2 should be superscripted ², and so on.

Research

I. Empirical Research

Original pieces of student research that are based on data and observations. Examples include epidemiological studies, clinical studies, and basic science research.

Basic format:

1. **Abstract:** Provide a brief summary of your work. Remember that most readers may not be familiar with your field of research, thus avoid unnecessary jargon whenever possible.
2. **Introduction:** What was the foundational hypothesis behind your research study? Why is it interesting and relevant? The introduction summarizes the relevant literature and provides background information in order for the reader to understand why you were interested in the question you asked. One to four paragraphs should be sufficient. End with a sentence explaining the specific hypothesis/question you asked in this experiment.
3. **Methods**
 - How did you investigate this question?
 - Include a diagram, table, or flowchart to explain the methods you used, if applicable.
 - *Do not* put results in this section.
 - Please mention relevant ethical considerations.
4. **Results:** Presented along with **relevant tables, figures, illustrations, or photographs (.jpeg files)**. Please provide captions and sources. Note that this section is different from the “Discussion” section. Please share only data and refrain from heavy interpretation, leaving conclusions and applications for the following section.
5. **Discussion:** We strongly recommend relating your research findings to public health, specifically about how it plays a significant role in the realm of public health.
6. **Acknowledgements:** Mention any non-author collaborators, assistants, and source of grants/funding.
7. **References:** List out all sources that were utilized to provide contextual information to the article. Should be done in AMA style.

II. Conceptual Research

Research that demonstrates original thought and provides unique insight based on qualitative observations, literature reviews, case studies, and other sources of information.

Basic format:

1. **Abstract:** Provide a brief summary of your work. Remember that most readers may not be familiar with your field of research, thus avoid unnecessary jargon whenever possible.
2. **Body:** Relevant photographs and illustrations are encouraged with this type of article. They should be .jpeg files. Please provide captions and sources.
3. **Discussion:** Discuss why the topic is relevant to the field of public health. Mentioning future directions is suggested. However, the objective is to present findings rather than to write an editorial piece.
4. **Acknowledgements:** Mention any non-author collaborators, assistants, and source of grants/funding.
5. **References:** List out all sources that were utilized to provide contextual information to the article. Should be done in AMA style.

Features

Anecdotal articles based on author's past experiences (e.g. overseas, community-based experiences) with some overarching theme related to public health. These are relatively light-read articles with an uninformed audience in mind.

I. Story-Oriented Feature

- Should place heavy emphasis on what the author has learned from their experiences, rather than on simply what they did.
- The author should provide his or her own perspective on the experience.
- It is important to avoid too much sentiment; the facts should be sufficient in getting the message across.
- Photos or infographics are highly encouraged; please submit as .jpeg files with captions and sources.

II. Photo Essay Feature

- Should consist primarily of pictures that tell a story. These types of features should be less factual and more sentimental. Captions should accompany the photos.
- Refer to journals such as *National Geographic* for specific examples of photo essay features.

Policies

Articles that bring light to policies, regulations, laws and ethical guidelines in public health, and illustrate the integration of domestic/international government and public health.

Basic Format:

- 1. Introduction/Background:** Provide a general overview of what topic the article will be about with any relevant background information. Specific details should not be included in this section.
- 2. Body:** Address the policy, regulation, law, or ethical guideline with further specific details. Consider providing historical context, statistical information, policy recommendations, and future directions. The body can be subdivided into multiple parts to make the article more coherent and easier to read. Photos, infographics, and figures are encouraged to supplement the text.
- 3. References:** List out all sources that were utilized to provide contextual information to the article. Should be done in AMA style.

Editorials

Opinion-based pieces reflecting public health issues that are important or pertinent to a general audience.

Basic Format:

- 1. Body:** Provide relevant background information about the issue at hand, and address your perspective about the topic. Any opinion should have strong factual basis to support it. Photos, infographics, and statistical information are highly recommended to supplement the text.
- 2. References:** List out all sources that were utilized to provide contextual information to the article. Should be done in AMA style.

Photography

- I. Please submit all photographs in .jpeg format.
- II. Please provide captions. If your photographs include specific people, please try to identify them by their full name and position or title.
- III. If any photos were not taken by you, please provide the full name and graduating year of the photographer so that he or she may be credited.