



**THIS IS GENDERED**

The feminist encyclopedia



# Writing guide

# Formal guidelines

- We use British spelling.
- Numbers below twenty are written in full, as well as tens and hundreds.
- Use of I is allowed.
- Aim for 150-650 words (we often go over this limit, which isn't necessarily good for engagement and accessibility; above 600 words is also hard to fit in an Insta post).
- Paragraphs max. 140 words.
- Please indicate where in your entry we can add links (URLs) to other entries.

# Tone

- Clear, accessible and informal.
- Short sentences.
- No complicated words (especially adjectives) that non-native speakers or not so ardent readers may be unfamiliar with.
- Jokes are encouraged, but should never be offensive.
- We try to start with something that everyone can relate to, so as to create unity rather than division (e.g. in the Chess entry: “Did you enjoy The Queen’s Gambit? You’re not alone.”)
- We try to end with a call to action or a question or a takeaway.
- Language must at all times be (gender-)inclusive.  
That means:
  - Be specific, e.g. “people who menstruate” instead of “women” when you’re writing about periods or pregnancy. When writing about ethnicity, skin colour or race, say e.g. “people of North-African descent” or even better “people of Egyptian descent” rather than “people of colour” or “Arabs”.

- In general, avoid catch-all terms like POC, BIPOC or LGBTQ+ when you're actually referring to a sub-group.
- Use correct (i.e. people's preferred) pronouns.
- Critically reflect on binary thinking if you refer to research or other publications that assume gender to be binary (e.g. in the Interruption entry: "A lot of research has studied these questions – unfortunately, all conceptualising gender as a binary factor, thus only looking at differences in interruption behaviour between men and women.")
- Avoid the terms "male" and "female", especially when writing about gender differences (as opposed to sex differences). Female and male are biological terms, often used in the wrong context when describing gender-related topics. We prefer to say "woman artist" rather than "female artist".
- You can use plural forms to avoid having to specify the gender of a subject. Usually also improves readability.
- Respect people's gender identity. A transgender woman is a woman, so we refer to her as "woman" and only as "transgender woman" when her being transgender is absolutely crucial to mention in that specific context.

- Intersectionality: Please be aware of potential racialised, ableist, sexual and other discriminatory aspects of the topic you're writing about. Check if gender discrimination in regards to your topic intersects with other forms of discrimination or marginalisation. If this is the case, they must always be mentioned.
- For complicated terms that need explanation (e.g. LGBTQ+) we use tooltips > a textbox with extra explanation pops up when the reader clicks on the term.
  - Put the text you'd like to see in the textbox between square brackets [] and the publishers will make sure the text is shown appropriately.

# Feedback

- Always let someone else read your work before publishing!
- Do not directly edit someone else's work, but use track changes.
- If you are the one giving feedback, be constructive. It usually helps if you:
  - Specifically mention which sentence/word you would change
  - Explain why
  - Suggest an alternative
  - Formulate your feedback from *your* perspective.  
So: "I think this section would be clearer if...."  
instead of "This section will be clearer if..."
- If you think a text overlooks an issue or doesn't address a sensitive topic properly, try to mention it without accusing the author of being insensitive. Especially when the issue affects you directly this can be hard, but it is much appreciated and part of the reason why we run the piece through a second pair of eyes.
- If you receive feedback that you disagree with, make an effort to explain your point of view. Ultimately, try to find common ground and make a shared decision.

# Bio

- We need a short bio from every contributor. This bio is 1-3 sentences long and no more than 50 words.
- For inspiration see:  
[www.thisisgender.org/contribute](http://www.thisisgender.org/contribute)

# Sources

- A list of all your sources is required in APA format.
- For guidance see [here](#).

# Submitting

- Please submit your entry, bio and sources through [this form](#).
- You do not have to submit the entry definition.