Eos Author Guidelines for Accepted Proposals

Eos's Audience

Eos is the science news magazine published by AGU. We publish for a **broad audience** that includes the global scientific community and the science-interested public. *Eos* is **not a journal** and does not publish data or original research results that have not been published in a peer-reviewed journal, nor does it publish **overly technical language or jargon**.

Writing for *Eos*

Many articles in *Eos* offer the opportunity to answer questions that journal articles may not: Why are you studying this? Why are you trying to answer these questions? Whether you are describing the process behind your research in a Science Update, offering solutions to a community issue in an Opinion, or giving an overview of an area of research in a Feature, you have an opportunity to show readers why this work or these questions are exciting to you and why they are societally and scientifically important. We encourage you to convey the passion that brought you to study and write about the topic.

Eos staff editors work with authors to ensure that the writing standards for *Eos* are met. Our editors are experts in science communication, and you should use them as much as needed to **create a manuscript that informs and engages the *Eos* readership.** Your editor can answer questions about format, structure, and the types of information and context you should include, based on their expertise and that of our Science Advisers.

Eos uses an online project management platform called Basecamp (https://basecamp.com/) to manage manuscript drafts and communicate with authors. Once we accept an article proposal, we will send the lead author an invitation to this platform and instructions on how to use it. We ask that authors use Basecamp for all communications about their manuscript as this allows us to keep all correspondence between authors and *Eos* staff in a single location. Only corresponding authors on manuscripts will be invited to Basecamp to streamline communications.

Note that your manuscript should not have been published previously in print or online (including as a preprint), or simultaneously submitted elsewhere for publication. In addition, posting of manuscript drafts (e.g., on a preprint server) that are undergoing editing at *Eos* is not permitted and may result in an article not being published by *Eos*. Following publication at Eos.org, reposting of the text of an article (although not necessarily photos or figures) is permitted, subject to the terms of copyright license agreement (see below).

Basic Requirements for All Article Types

Language: *Eos* requires a writing style that is accessible to a broad audience. Avoid using specialized terminology and jargon. Terms that are not common to all of Earth and space science disciplines should be explained or defined. (Think of writing your manuscript as if you were describing your work over a dinner with a colleague who is not in your field—someone who is smart and interested in the topic but would likely not know a lot about the context.)

Structure: *Eos* articles *are not* structured like typical peer-reviewed papers (i.e., Abstract→Introduction→Methods→etc.). Instead, they are more narrative in style. Authors should state clearly and succinctly in the first or second paragraph the significance of the topic: Why is the subject of this article important or interesting? Then follow up with details of (and, if relevant, anecdotes from) research, or support for an opinion. *Eos* articles typically feature several subsections divided by engaging subtitles. Please keep the use of numbered or bulleted lists to a minimum.

References: *Eos* allows in-line citations (with accompanying full references listed at the end of an article; see articles online for the format). However, keep references to a minimum (no more than 12), citing only those that will help point the interested reader to more information, or to information that the author has relied on heavily. *Eos* is not a research journal, and therefore it is not necessary to document all sources meticulously. An alternative to formal, in-line citations and references is to link text in your article to outside information or references—in some cases this is the preferred and/or necessary approach.

Images: Provide an eye-catching, landscape-oriented photograph to lead the story. This lead image should not be a figure, collage, or map, although these can be additional images embedded in the article. All images should be provided at as high a resolution as possible and *submitted as separate files* (.jpg or .png) apart from manuscript drafts. In your manuscript, include a caption (brief, clear, and in complete sentences) and a credit for each image. If an image is not in the public domain or freely available under a Creative Commons license, *Eos* needs written permission from the copyright holder of the image to publish it. *Authors are expected to help secure and document permissions from copyright holders, including from journal or book publishers in the case of previously published figures.*

- **Figures:** Be discerning when suggesting figures. These should not be highly technical figures one would submit with a journal article. Just as *Eos* publishes text appropriate for a broader audience, the accompanying figures must be appropriate as well. Figures must be high-resolution, relatively simple (including only information covered by the manuscript), and visually interesting. We may insist that our graphics team redesign the figure. We may also decline to publish figures if they do not meet *Eos*'s standards.

Headline and Teaser: Provide a newspaper-style headline that is brief, focuses on the most important aspect of the article, and includes no acronyms or abbreviations. Headlines may be up to 64 characters long, including spaces. A teaser summary that accompanies the headline (but does not repeat it) can be up to 200 characters, including spaces. Headlines and teasers may be

changed during editing. Author input will be considered, but final decisions regarding headlines and teasers are the responsibility of *Eos*.

Authorship: We allow a *maximum of 5 authors* per article. Authors listed in the byline must be only those who *actually write* the manuscript. Project team names cannot be listed as authors. Other individuals or organizations who, e.g., contributed to underlying research or who provided feedback for an *Eos* article, may be mentioned and/or linked to in the main article or recognized in an Acknowledgments section at the end of the main text.

Copyright: Authors (one per manuscript) must fill in and sign *Eos*'s copyright license agreement. This includes selecting the appropriate copyright designation for the publication of their article (Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND 3.0, Creative Commons CC BY, Public Domain, or Crown).

File: Submit articles as Microsoft Word documents (.docx or .doc) or, if necessary, as .txt documents. Do not submit PDF Files or link to Google or other cloud documents, and do not include line numbers.

Basic Style: *Eos* style is based on the *Chicago Manual of Style* and *Words Into Type. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Webster's Third New International Dictionary* (and its Addendum), and the *Glossary of Geology* are used for hyphenation and spelling. *Eos* uses an open punctuation style, that is, only as much punctuation as necessary for clarity. Units of measure must be metric; SI units are strongly encouraged.

Guidelines for Specific Article Types

Science Updates provide updates on the status of a particular research project or effort. These articles should offer a look into the process of the research, the challenges encountered and how (if applicable) they were overcome, and questions that remain and how you plan to approach answering them. Your passion and excitement about the research and the importance of the conclusions you hope to reach are welcome additions. *These articles cannot contain science results that have not been peer reviewed.*

These articles may also offer insight into and context of discussions and results presented at meetings, conferences, and workshops. Our goal for Science Updates like this is to place descriptions of meetings within the broader context of an important issue rather than describing a meeting as an isolated event. *Articles that offer only broad summaries of meeting discussions and that lack insight or context will be rejected.* Procedural accounts or specifics about how a workshop operated should also be avoided.

Maximum length: 1,500 words

Opinions identify a problem within the Earth and space science community (culturally or scientifically) and offer solutions for the reader. If the problem is widely known (e.g., lack of diversity in science; the need to address climate change), it doesn't need to be established in the

manuscript, which should move quickly to recommendations. An Opinion should engage or move forward a conversation in the science community.

Maximum length: 1,500 words

Features offer readers a solid overview of a defined topic. Much like a white paper, a good Feature article places its topic in a broad context; describes the work in a way that scientists across all disciplines as well as the science-interested public can understand and appreciate; acknowledges the breadth of findings; and gives readers a sense of the history, challenges, and opportunities related to the topic discussed.

A Feature article does not focus on a single project, meeting, or research experiment. Rather, it uses several case studies or examples to describe the topic. Some articles may be tutorial in nature. Whenever possible, the article should weave together science and policy issues related to the topic and acknowledge alternate findings.

Introductory paragraphs should provide a framework and entice readers to continue reading. The concluding section should address what has been learned and how it can be applied, as well as potential future directions. Scientific controversies and cutting-edge challenges are of special interest as potential Feature articles, and we encourage authors to discuss the policy implications of their research.

Maximum length: 2,000 words

News items are written by *Eos* staff or freelance science writers and briefly report on recent geophysical phenomena, exciting new research findings, and topics related to science policy and culture.

Preferred length: 500 words; maximum length: 1,000 words