

## Wildcat Dispatches: Style Guide for Authors

Submissions should be emailed as a .doc or .docx file to [wildcatdispatches@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatdispatches@gmail.com).

Please send any images in a separate attachment.

### **Style:**

In general, use precise and clear language. We're aiming for short pieces that are easily understood by English speakers across the globe.

Avoid using slang unless it's central to your argument, and you explain the meaning of the terms. Swearing is fine if it adds to the piece or is quoted, but not just for its own sake.

We publish pieces that are between 500 and 700 words long. Occasionally we will publish slightly longer articles, but please try and keep to this limit.

Keep titles short and snappy. Avoid clickbait formulations, such as 'You won't believe...' / 'No one thought it was possible ...' Give us a clear sense of what the article talks about in as few words as possible.

Try and avoid jargon and academic language wherever possible. Think of the simplest way of defining the concept you're talking about. If that concept is 'the petty-bourgeoisie' then fine, but if it's 'middle-class shop owners in England' then use that phrase instead. Even if you're writing about your own specialist subject, remember that our readership is broad and may not understand specialist language.

### **Formatting:**

- Indent new paragraphs
- If inserting a hyperlink underline the text you want it to be attached to and put the link in brackets beside the underlined text
- Write numbers as text (eg 'fifty-five' not '55') unless they are over three digits long.
- Provide at least five 'tags' for the article so we can build a searchable archive
- Keep to standard punctuation

- Be consistent in whether you use UK/US spelling. Either is fine as long as you don't change throughout the article.
- No caps lock, please use italics for emphasis.

**Images:**

If you're sending an image to use with your article then tell us where it's from. Ideally it would be a picture you have taken yourself, but images licensed for use within the public domain are fine too – we just need to know how to credit it.

**Editing process:**

One of our editorial team will confirm receipt of your article and let you know when to expect a decision. Please be patient as we deal with a lot of incoming mail.