

# CONSILIENCE

THE JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## *Consilience* Author Submission Guidelines

### Table of Contents

Author Checklist . . . . .	2
Note from the Editors . . . . .	4
Scope of the Journal . . . . .	4
Types of Papers Accepted . . . . .	5
Characteristics of Past Successful Submissions . . . . .	6
Formatting Guidelines (citations and general formatting) . . . . .	7
Review, Production, and Publication Notes . . . . .	8
Plagiarism . . . . .	9
Privacy Statement . . . . .	10

## Checklist

As part of the submission process, authors are required confirm compliance with all of the following items. Submissions may be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.

Before submitting your paper, please check the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that I have read this document in its entirety
- \_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that the text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in the "Formatting Guidelines" below.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that this is an original work, an update on a previous piece, or a reprint of an article that deserves wider discussion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that this submission adheres to standard grammar conventions
- \_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that my uploaded file is in .docx file type and NOT .pdf
- \_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that I have read the Author Agreement – found on the *Consilience* website under the Submit to the Academic Journal Tab (signage is not required until the paper has been accepted for publication)

Included with my submission is the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cover Sheet: this should include the title of your article, your full name, institutional affiliation, and your email address.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarly Abstract: this should include your thesis, methodology, and its relevance to other disciplines within the field of sustainable development. This should be no more than 250 words.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Author's Note: The *Consilience* Editorial Board has found that readers enjoy learning about the author's personal motivations. This is your personal note to readers, describing the rationale for your study, your thesis, its relevance of the field of sustainable development and future avenues for research. The author's note should be no more than 150 words and should at minimum include:
- \_\_\_\_\_ All affiliation details: department, center, institution, city, state, zip code
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keywords: please include 3 to 6 keywords describing the content of the article.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Full Text Manuscript (upload a Word document, not PDF)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Figures, Attach source files for table data and high-resolution figures separately. 6 figures and 5 tables maximum
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bibliography (citations), as outlined in the "Formatting Guidelines" below
- \_\_\_\_\_ Appendices or Supplementary Material: we strongly encourage you to include any relevant photographs, charts, or graphs within the body of the article itself, beside relevant passages. These should be cited appropriately.

## Note from the Editors

Dear Author,

*Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development* is a journal dedicated to promoting dialogue on sustainable development by bringing students, researchers, professors, and practitioners from a variety of disciplines and geographical regions in direct conversation with each other through an online, academically rigorous medium.

The field of sustainable development is broad and can encompass a wide variety of topics, related to the sciences, economics, politics, and society. As an interdisciplinary journal, *Consilience* encourages its contributors to submit articles of relevance to many fields related to the study and practice of sustainable development. *Consilience* also encourages authors of all experience levels, sectors, and disciplines to submit.

Our process for screening submissions is very competitive, so please be sure to read this document in its entirety before submitting your paper. Papers that do not follow our guidelines will be at a disadvantage during our screening process.

The opinions expressed within *Consilience* do not necessarily reflect those of the journal, its staff, its Advisory Boards, or affiliates, or those of Columbia University.

Questions should be directed to [consiliencejournal@gmail.com](mailto:consiliencejournal@gmail.com). For more information and to read the journal, please visit [www.consiliencejournal.org](http://www.consiliencejournal.org). The Editorial Board is based at Columbia University in New York City.

Thank you for considering *Consilience*. We look forward to reading your work.

- The *Consilience* Editorial Team

## Scope of the Journal

*Consilience* publishes scholarly articles, opinion pieces, field notes, editorial columns and photo essays. By providing a public platform for discussion, we hope to encourage a global community to think more broadly, thoroughly, and analytically about sustainable development. The journal is run by a team of undergraduate and graduate students, under the guidance of faculty from Columbia University in the City of New York.

*Consilience* draws submissions from across five continents. We have published or are currently editing submissions from:

- Europe – Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom
- Asia – China, India, Malaysia, Palestine, Philippines
- Africa – Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda
- Oceania – Australia, New Zealand
- Latin America – Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela
- United States of America

Typically, more than 50% of our submissions come from outside of the U.S.

## Types of Papers Accepted

### Scholarly Articles

Scholarly articles are original, research-based articles that contribute new understandings or approaches to topics in sustainable development. Such articles are thoroughly substantiated by existing research in order to introduce innovative findings; thus, articles contain numerous citations from scholarly sources. Some authors may wish to include a concise literature review, although a specific literature review section is not required. Authors should also include discussions of recommendations and implications of their findings. Implications should be global in nature and not confined to specific case studies discussed in the article. Given the rigor of the research, scholarly articles contain technical language and use of appropriate terminology. Accompanying graphs, charts, and statistical analysis are often appropriate to include. These types of articles typically run longer than opinion pieces, field notes, and photo essays. Although *Consilience* does not designate a particular word or page limit, scholarly articles typically run between 12 and 18 pages, excluding bibliography and appendices.

## Opinion Pieces

Opinion pieces are designed to offer compelling arguments regarding controversial topics in sustainable development, including attendant challenges, strengths and theories. The main difference between opinion pieces and scholarly articles is that opinion pieces are less technically constructed, hence catering to the educated lay reader. Opinion pieces are also typically shorter than scholarly articles, rarely exceeding 15 pages. Authors may wish to include photographs and figures to illustrate their claims.

## Field Notes

A field note is a narrative that describes primary research conducted by the author(s). Research may consist of interviews, observations, data collection, or post-field work reflections. Fieldwork should generally provide a broader commentary on a topic or trend in sustainable development. Research should build on existing information and should contribute new or supportive findings in order to provide an argument that considers previous research as well as future steps for further research. The implications of the findings should be globalized so as to expand upon specific case studies. Research should also be accompanied by appropriate statistical analysis. Authors may find it helpful to illustrate their findings through figures, graphs, and photographs.

## Photo Essays

A photo essay is primarily a narrative that illustrates a topic in sustainable development through the lens of photographs. The series of photos should introduce an issue then depict the problem, trend, or solution regarding that issue in sustainable development. Photographs should be impactful and artfully convey information as well as emotions of affected communities. Although all photo essays differ in structure, typical photo essays follow one of two progressions. One progression narrates a story by depicting a phenomenon, organization, or individual over time. Another progression concentrates on a particular subject, such as climate change, in order to demonstrate the consequences or lessons that can be learned from that subject. Authors may either choose or combine structures of photo essays to best articulate their topic. Additional elements that should be incorporated into an essay include: context, captions, and conclusions. All photos should be taken by the author(s). The following is a description of different types of photos found in photo essays:

- Lead Photo: captures the reader's attention and introduces the central idea of the essay.
- Landscape Photos: provide context for the narrative.
- Portraits: depict the subjects or figures featured in the essay.
- Detail Photos: convey additional information or emotional aspects in order to enhance the understanding of the topic.
- Clincher Photo: concludes the essay by implicating the reader.

## Characteristics of Past Successful Submissions

The *Consilience* Editorial Team has chosen to include the following information about past submissions selected for publication. The information in this section is solely for your convenience: they are guidelines, not requirements. It is not necessary that all pieces meet all conditions; however, it is necessary that all pieces meet all requirements outlined in Section One (Author Checklist).

Accepted pieces generally conform to many of these criteria:

- Contribute in a fruitful and valuable manner to the field of sustainable development
- Demonstrate creative thinking about a particular issue and its attendant challenges
- Move beyond a simple restating of facts
- Be accessible to a broad population interested in sustainable development and attempt to make linkages between different disciplines and areas of research and/or practice
- Be thought-provoking
- Be well-written. All pieces should progressively develop an argument throughout the piece and should follow a comprehensible and logical structure
- Reflect the particular voice, ideas, and work of the writer
- Propose solutions and remedies where appropriate; suggest further research possibilities
- Offer one or more perspectives on a particular issue. Articles that are ideal for acceptance will be interdisciplinary by nature

## Formatting Guidelines

Please include the following with your submission:

1. **Cover Sheet:** this should include the title of your article, your full name, institutional affiliation, and your email address.
2. **Scholarly Abstract:** this should include your thesis, methodology, and its relevance to other disciplines within the field of sustainable development. This should be no more than 250 words.
3. **Author's Note:** The *Consilience* Editorial Board has found that readers enjoy learning about the author's personal motivations. This is your personal note to readers, describing the rationale for your study, your thesis, its relevance of the field of sustainable development and future avenues for research. The author's note should be no more than 150 words and should at minimum include:
  1. All affiliation details: department, center, institution, city, state, zip code
4. **Keywords:** please include 3 to 6 keywords describing the content of the article.

5. **Full Text Manuscript** (upload a Word document, not PDF)
6. **Figures:** Attach source files for table data and high-resolution figures separately. 6 figures and 5 tables maximum
7. **Bibliography** (citations), as outlined below
8. **Appendices or Supplementary Material:** we strongly encourage you to include any relevant photographs, charts, or graphs within the body of the article itself, beside relevant passages. These should be cited appropriately.

## Citations

*Consilience* requires in-text citations with an accompanying bibliography in APA format. For authors who want to include supplementary information, we prefer footnotes, not endnotes.

For assistance with APA formatting, please refer to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

## Formatting

1. Section headings and article title: Times New Roman, 16 pt, bold
2. Author's name and affiliations: Center text, Times New Roman, 12 pt
3. Scholarly abstract and author's note: Justified, Times New Roman, 10 pt
4. Keywords: Times New Roman, 12 pt
5. Article body text and bibliography: Times New Roman, 12 pt
6. Subheadings: Times New Roman, 14 pt, italic and numbered in Roman numerals
7. Captions: Times New Roman, 12 pt
8. Figures: Attach source files for table data and high-resolution figures separately
  1. 6 figures and 5 tables maximum
9. No footnotes allowed!

## Review, Production, and Publication Notes

### Creative Commons

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## **Editorial Review Process**

The *Consilience* Academic Journal Editors conduct a blind screening of all submissions to select papers for publication, which then undergo a rigorous review.

Chosen papers will be edited for style and content. There are two main rounds of editing: the first focuses on structural and content issues, and the second on stylistic and small-scale issues. Authors should be aware that they will likely be expected to revise submitted articles prior to publication. Please note that as this is a student-run journal, and is not technically peer reviewed.

## **Submission Screening Process**

While *Consilience* will make every effort to respond to all submissions, it cannot guarantee that all submissions will receive a response. Please contact *Consilience* at [consiliencejournal@gmail.com](mailto:consiliencejournal@gmail.com) if you do not receive an email within two months of submitting.

While we consider every submission, our selection process is very competitive. As an interdisciplinary journal which strives to publish a diverse array of voices, there is no single theme or type of submission which is favored over the other. Submissions which do not follow our formatting guidelines will be at a disadvantage in our screening process.

## **Submission Details**

*Consilience* cannot return submitted manuscripts or documents. *Consilience* reserves the right to exclude any article from inclusion in final publication at any point in this process. *Consilience* also maintains the right to edit, delete, or change any aspect of an article at its own discretion. Any major changes will be communicated to the author prior to publication.

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## Plagiarism

Prospective author(s) represent that their submission is an original manuscript and is an unpublished work that is not under consideration elsewhere. Plagiarism in whole or in part, including duplicate publication of the author's own work, will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- The reuse of exact wording or phrases of another published work
- The improper use of quotation marks
- A failure to attribute quoted texts and ideas to their original authors
- Using tables, data visualizations, illustrations and other elements without proper attribution
- Reusing one's own previously published words or ideas without attribution

Issues of plagiarism will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the editorial board. In the event that the editors are notified of suspected plagiarism in a submitted manuscript or published article, the editors will follow guidelines suggested by the Committee on Publication Ethics.

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