

Writing yourself into the story

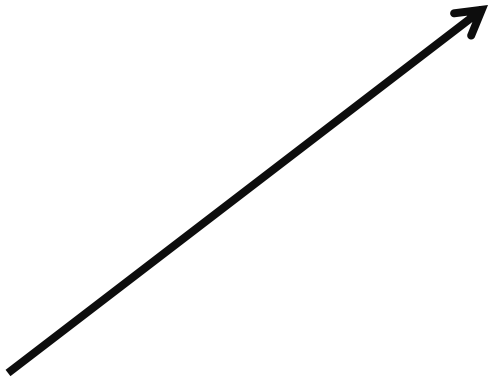
Don't do it



Write like you write,
talk like you talk,
but don't write like you talk



Don't refer to yourself in a story. Don't say, "I..."



You are telling a story, not talking with a friend

Exception for this rule is a column, in which you can refer to yourself and your opinion of the thing you're talking about



News, sports coverage, features, business, etc., all are written **without** referring to yourself

Let's look at some examples

classes.birksland.com





Pair up and interview each other
write it up, look for writing yourself into the story

Journalistic style

Style = rules used by a media outlet

Design rules (style)



Writing rules (style)



Why is style important?

If everyone uses the same set of standards when writing their stories, the whole newspaper will read easier

Story 1:

Mr. Birks lives at 123 Main St.

Story 2:

Mr. Birks lives at one hundred
twenty three Main Street.

The purpose of style is consistency

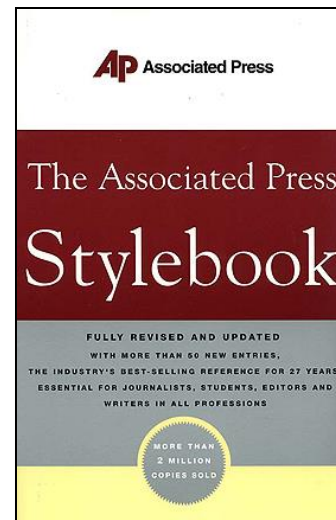
Writing style

Examples:

1. Numbered street names are to be written out - Third instead of 3rd
2. Use the dollar sign instead of writing dollars - \$5 instead of 5 dollars

Newspapers may have a writing style of their own, but most adhere to the standards set by the Associated Press (AP)

Use AP style for class



Worksheet

Let's go over some examples:

**Answer questions
on page 14 & 20**

Don't write in
your textbook

Let's take about 10-15
minutes to do this activity



Copy editing

Always have someone else read your story before handing it in

When reading a story to check for mistakes (proofreading) you can use copy editing marks to point out errors



REFERENCE CHART FOR COPY-EDITING SYMBOLS

1. Abbreviate or use numerals
thirteen
2. Boldface
This line should be set in boldface type.
3. Capitalize
An american won the nobel prize.
4. Center
Continued on Page 10
5. Change letter
Their ho^e is expen^sive.
6. Change word
She received ~~three~~ gifts.
7. Close up space between words
Their car was ~~com~~pletely destroyed.
8. Close up space within a word
Their children ~~r~~an outside.
9. Continues on next page
More
10. Delete letter
They received ~~d~~ the money.
11. Delete phrase
They did not use ~~any unneeded~~ unnecessary words.
12. Delete punctuation
They asked, if he was safe, OR: They asked, if he was safe.
OR: -30- OR: -0-
13. End of story
The typesetter will begin this line at the left margin.
14. Flush left
The typesetter will begin this line at the right margin.
15. Flush right
16. Ignore correction (Correct as written)
17. Insert apostrophe
It's good you're going home.
18. Insert colon
He set three goals: success, health and wealth.
19. Insert comma
The girl, lives with her grandmother.
20. Insert dash
The score was 87 to 53 a disaster.
21. Insert exclamation point
"What I don't believe it," she exclaimed.
22. Insert hyphen
The ^{year}-old girl live with her mother.
23. Insert letter
Their car ^{led} to ^{start}.
24. Insert period
John C. Kefalis received the scholarship.
25. Insert quotation marks
"This is easy," he said.
26. Insert semicolon
Don't go; he needs your help.
27. Insert word
He writes poetry.
28. Italic
Some publications set words in italics for emphasis.
29. Lowercase (Do not capitalize)
The Mayor failed to arrive.
30. No new paragraph
To generate more publicity, the candidate announced that he would work at different jobs.
He spent the remainder of his campaign picking tomatoes, plucking chickens and driving trucks.
31. Separate words
Journalists are critical of political gimmickry.
32. Spell out numbers or words
She said people will go to Ala.
33. Start new paragraph
Another man campaigned on roller skates.
His wife explained: "We met at a roller skating rink, and we thought it would be a fun idea. He's going house to house, subdivision to subdivision on his skates, and people remember him."
34. Transpose letter
Typists often transpose letters.
35. Transpose words
Happily, he accepted the award.

Possessives (or is it Possessives')

Think of possessives like you or someone else has something

- The dog's toy
- The children's playground
- Chris' new car

Two types of possessives

Singular

Man

Plural

Men

General possessive rules

See Appendix C (pg. 649) for details

1. For most nouns that do not end in S, add an ' and **S** to the end of the word

Dog's

Men's

Alumni's

If it doesn't end in S - most of the time add 'S

General possessive rules

See Appendix C (pg. 649) for details

2. Most singular, common nouns (not names) that end in S, add a ' and another **S**

Witness's

3. Most plural, common nouns AND proper nouns (like names) that end in S, add only the '

The girls' food

The Jones' house

General possessive rules

See Appendix C (pg. 649) for details

4. If an object is possessed jointly by two or more groups, just add **'S** to the last noun

Chris and Amy**'s** house

My mother and father**'s** car

