

Writing for *The Conversation*
Panel Held on October 17, 2019

Takeaways:

- [The Conversation](#) publishes journalistic articles authored by Ph.Ds. As the Editor Naomi Schalit mentioned, the purpose is to democratize knowledge.
- Articles are often republished by other news outlets which increases the reach. There is an online portal for authors to see where their work is getting republished.
- Types of articles:
 - News analysis
 - Explainers of specialized topics in science, religion, history, law, politics, arts, etc...
 - Articles that are associated with a particular event, current, past, or in the future
 - Articles tied to recurring annual events including holidays
 - (Opinion articles or personal takes on the news would be more appropriate for other outlets.)
- Tips for writing for The Conversation:
 - Avoid jargon
 - Write for an educated audience but not for an audience in your field
 - Back up arguments with data/references (can even be your own!)
 - Articles are 500-1000 words
 - Depending on type of article, newsiness, turnaround can be one day to 2 months. (Still, faster than traditional pubs!)
 - Do not read the comments section; The Conversation, under certain circumstances, will not allow commenting. Still, you may get emails lauding or denigrating your work, which is the case for public scholarship more generally.
- Pitch an idea first before writing the entire article to get feedback, guidance from the Editor about scope, jargon.
- Pitches are can be made to the [WSU Communications](#) team or directly to The Conversation.
- Public scholarship is increasingly valued as scholarship in its own right:
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Public-Writingthe-Junior/247342?cid=wcontentgrid_hp_9

For more information, contact the [WSU Communications team](#):