CIVITAS JOURNALS

‘Power in Flux’

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Introducing ... the 26/27 committee

President



Shahama

Secretary



Ben

Treasurer



James

Chief Tech Officer



Benson

Director of Comms



Jake

Director of Journals



Asa

Editor-In-Chief



Ethan

Director of Events



Rafael

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What is Civitas?

Civitas is our in-house journal.

Civitas Journals

Our semesterial academic journal publishing articles on policy, economics, and related subjects. Follows a theme.

Civitas Papers

Papers that we present directly to policy makers in government.

Civitas Forums

Blog-style articles about policy and related subjects.

Civitas Reports

Somewhat shorter papers presenting our own research.

Civitas News

Bi-weekly short-form news summaries on Instagram and YouTube.

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Civitas Journal Semester 1

‘Power in Flux’

The Theme

In local communities, within nations and between nations, power is changing across the world. In the journal you are free to talk about anything related to power, from geopolitics, grassroots campaigning, energy policy, military policy and anything else you feel is related.

Project Overview

- Write a 1500 - 3000 word article
- **Timeline:** First draft will be due December 2026. Will be published Jan 2027
- **Why write:** Get published in an academic journal – looks AMAZING on a CV! You will also get trained and get feedback from us, to help improve your academic writing.

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How to take part

Submit your title, topic and short (<100 words) abstract.

To edit – join the Editors channel on WhatsApp

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The components of the article

What is Expected

The focus of your essay should be on **identifying an issue** and making a **recommendation** about what you want to do to address it. You can either **develop your own policy proposal or evaluate a current policy** and suggest changes. We want to know: What do you want to do? How will your recommendation address the issue? Your argument should be supported by evidence.

What You Need

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Proposal
- Recommendations
    - The exact policies
    - What challenges will this face
- Conclusion

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If You need Help Email:

You can email either Asa at thw518@york.ac.uk or Ethan at pml539@york.ac.uk for advice.

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The components of the article

Civil Service Policy Structure

Issue - Outline the problem at hand in the Introduction section.

Recommendation - Signpost what you intend to do, also in the Introduction section.

Background - Provide the context behind the issue you wish to address. Make sure you cover the historical causes of the issue and current policy situation in UK law, or in the country you wish to cover.

Proposal - What do you want to do? How will it address the issue? How much will it cost (consider using a table)? How will you mitigate its risks?

Argument - Consider other recommendations that could be made to remedy the issue you've outlined. Why should your policy be chosen over them? Are they too costly, risky, impractical?

Measuring success - How will you measure the success of the policy in the future? What possible amendments would you be willing to make to the policy in order to ensure it is successful? How long will this policy take to implement? Provide a timeline.

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How to write an abstract (~100 words)

What we want

Your abstract should give us an insight into the direction you want to take with your policy recommendation.. It is an opportunity to start developing your thoughts, clarify what you hope to achieve and help us understand how we can best support you in shaping and strengthening your ideas.

Structure of the Abstract

- It should start with an explanation of the topic you want to Explore
- It then should move onto idea for recommendation will be
- Then a brief overview about the contents of your article

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How to submit the Abstract

Write your abstract onto a google docs and mail it to us

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What feedback will you get?

Content

The general feedback for the submission as a whole will be typical WWW/EBI, highlighting the most effective sections and sections which need greater detail or can be cut down.

We will also give more detailed feedback through comments regarding language, argument and content closer to what you would expect in a marked uni essay. This could include rewording or restructuring points, highlighting gaps or over explanation in the logic of the proposal, considering limitations or costs and strengthening the recommendation.

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Tips

We can also help (during the writing or feedback processes) with academic voice if this is something you struggle with, just drop Asa or Ethan an email.

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What feedback will you get?

Structure & Formatting

We will help ensure that each sections of your article is the right length and that the structure of the proposal flows correctly. If there are any issues with word count we can also suggest where appropriate sections can be shortened without affecting the overall structure.

The editing team will handle the formatting and ensure that the journal is visually cohesive, so don't worry about this!

Tips

If you are unsure about anything to do with your submission, the previous Civitas Journals are available on our website as a reference.

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Top Tips

- **Use an academic and formal writing style**
- Your argument is only as good as your weaknesses
- **Use Subheadings**
- Make sure you have a central theme.
- Use boxes for figures, charts, graphs, tables, case-studies,
- Think about how you would measure success
- Think about background context of your issue

Referencing

We use HARVARD referencing - use a reference manager!
And use **academic sources only**

Format

Use **Google Docs**

Word count between **1500-3000**

Don't use first person

Times New Roman - Justified - Line Spacing 1.5

Title - 18 pt , Bold

Author's Names - 12pt

Subtitle - 16 pt , Bold

Subheadings - 14 pt , Bold

Normal Text - 12pt

Figure Captions - 10pt

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Getting Started

First Draft is Due Sunday 27th December 4pm!!!

(Deadline must be met to be published)

1. **Create a Google Docs**
   - Set share to "**Anyone** with the link can **edit**"
   - Format your document
   - Set a title: firstname_surname_working-title
2. **Write your abstract**
3. **Get a membership**
4. **Send a link to the document to thinktank@yorksu.org. In the email, include your number in this email please !**

   Once you have submitted and got your membership, you and your document will be added to a shared drive. You will also be added to a WhatsApp group
5. **Read our feedback. Start writing your first draft. Send a message on the channel when your first draft is done.**

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Want to be an editor

1st Round

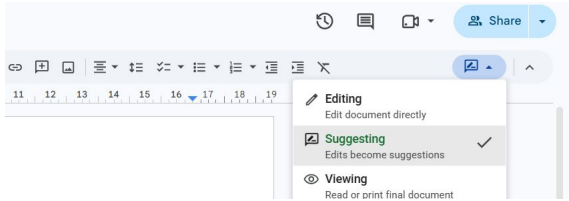
Shahama, Asa and Ethan will go through and check for argument quality, structuring etc.

If you were a writer or editor last year, you can also take part in this process (you'll be credited as a senior editor). *Please get in touch with one of us directly for this.*

2nd Round

- SPaG
- Formatting (double check)
- Check references

Go onto 'Suggesting' mode to add Edits. **Use your uni email**.



How to join:

Join the 'Editors' channel on WhatsApp where Ethan will periodically call out articles to be edited

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Keep in Touch!

Website:

yorkthinktank.co.uk

Instagram:

@yorkthinktank

Also

- If you are a post-grad student doing research in policy
- Or know any module leaders teaching Think Tank related modules

Please let us know!

WhatsApp:

York Think Tank

WhatsApp community

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