

GUIDELINES

Manuscript Format Examples for New Authors

Following are three common formats for essays. Yours doesn't need to be one of these; they are provided as examples of possible formats. If you have specific questions, contact the PEDIATRIC ETHICSCOPE editors at: steti@childrensnational.org.

A. An event from clinical work has caused you to reflect ethically on the situation. This event may have occurred on a repeated basis, or is highly unusual, and you believe this issue needs to be discussed. There may have been a solution or resolution to the situation that other providers might be able use to ameliorate the situation:

1. Describe the deidentified event(s) and why there is an ethical issue.
2. Explain the ethical issue, drawing on support from the ethics literature or other sources.
3. Explain the reasons why this situation arises; what are the contributing factors?
4. Describe what you believe would be a better way to address the situation.
5. What are the strengths of your proposal? Are there shortcomings? Analyze the strengths/weaknesses of your proposal, and compare to existing practices or procedures.
6. Conclude with a summary of the issue and your analysis.

B. There is a position or belief you hold about an ethical issue, policy, or procedure that you would like to write about. The following is a common format used in bioethics (and other social sciences). It is most commonly used for academically-oriented papers, but could also be used for an in-depth case study:

1. Describe the issue. It could be clinical, policy-related, or theoretical.
2. Present alternative, well-known points of view on the issue (usually no more than 3) citing the relevant literature.
3. Analyze the strengths and/or shortcomings of these points of view.
4. Using data, examples, or argument, show how your position solves problems the others do not. Cite other work that supports your argument.
5. Draw a conclusion that follows logically from the premises and arguments you presented.

C. If you are interested in writing a case study, this is a common format for medical papers. It consists of four parts: an introduction, case presentation(s), discussion(s), and conclusion. If multiple cases are

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presented, an additional section summarizing the common elements, or making distinctions, can be placed after the discussion and before the conclusion:

1. Introduction: Present your thesis, introduce the case you will be discussing, and summarize the argument you will be making, briefly describing the evidence and conclusion you have made.
2. Case presentation: Present one (or more) deidentified cases and include:
 - a. The history: patient, family, psychosocial dynamics, interaction with medical team.
 - b. The ethical issue.
 - c. How the case was managed and the outcome
3. Analysis: Analyze the case and outcome; what is important ethically? What lessons are to be learned? How does this relate to your thesis?
4. Discussion: Point out commonalities or distinctions in the preceding section. Briefly, describe some other well-known points of view, or cite additional support for your thesis.
5. Conclusion: synthesize the ideas presented in the previous sections and show how your thesis is supported by the information presented.

D. There are many other ways to organize manuscripts. Contact the editors if you have any questions. Thank you for your interest in Pediatric Ethicscope!

E. Additional online resources can be found here:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3510958/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2597880/>.

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0ahUKEwi32IjW5_fWAhXCh1QKHckECicQFgg5MAM&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.springer.com%2Fcontent%2Fdocument%2Fdownload%2F9789400727823-c2.pdf%3FSGWID%3D0-0-45-1269339-p174245880&usg=AOvVaw3ryd6JbK_QQKeogQMelemk