The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, as fully explained in Policy 07-01-03, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran. The University also prohibits and will not engage in retaliation against any person who makes a claim of discrimination or harassment or who provides information in such an investigation. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities*. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs, please contact: University of Pittsburgh; Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Katie Pope, Title IX Coordinator, and Cheryl Ruffin, 504 and ADA Coordinator; Second Floor, Webster Hall; 4415 Fifth Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15260; 412-648-7860.

For complete details on the University's Nondiscrimination Policy, please refer to Policy 07-01-03. For information on how to file a complaint under this policy, please refer to Procedure 07-01-03.

*Except where exempt by federal or state laws.

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.
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111751-1119
The University’s Writing Style: An Important Part of Its Identity

The University of Pittsburgh reaches out to many audiences through its publications and its websites. While each of the University’s schools, colleges, departments, and academic and administrative units has its own special strengths and its own stories to tell, each is part of the same institution. The use of a clear, consistent writing style for all print materials and websites produced by and for the University of Pittsburgh reinforces this fact and, just like a conscientiously applied graphic style or identity, helps to present the University to its audiences in a consistent and professional manner, making use of the highest standards of written English language expression.

The University of Pittsburgh is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), a consortium of top North American research institutions. When the process of creating this style manual was initiated, many AAU members were using The Chicago Manual of Style, considered a highly authoritative reference in publishing and academia, as the basis for their own writing styles. In June 2003, the University of Pittsburgh adopted style guidelines based on, but not identical to, those in The Chicago Manual of Style, 14th Edition, as part of its institutional identity program. In 2007, following the release of 15th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style, these guidelines were updated.

In an effort to better reflect how language is actually being used within the University community and among our higher education peers, this third edition of the University of Pittsburgh Writing Style Manual has been revised to more closely align with the recommendations outlined in the Associated Press Stylebook. Because this reference does not address all style questions that may be raised in an academic environment, we continue to recommend that users refer to The Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition, for matters of style and usage not addressed in the Associated Press Stylebook or in this style manual.

This style manual is a comprehensive road map to the style guidelines adopted by the University of Pittsburgh. Within these guidelines are exceptions to and clarifications of style conventions listed in the Associated Press Stylebook and The Chicago Manual of Style that are common to written communications at Pitt. It has been prepared for the use of all who write University promotional materials (brochures, magazines, newsletters, flyers, posters, etc.) and for websites that will carry the University’s name. In addition to serving as the basis for a consistent writing style, this manual also provides a handy reference guide to some common spellings, abbreviations and punctuation. For general matters of spelling, the recommended dictionary is the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. If two or more accepted spellings are given, the first is the one preferred for University publications. Any questions about University of Pittsburgh writing style or this manual should be directed to the Office of University Communications and Marketing.

Top Tips for Good Writing

The Basics

1. The University of Pittsburgh, Pitt and the University are the only acceptable references to this institution.

2. Check your facts. Sometimes we assume things that we don't really know, and it can be embarrassing. Check all proper nouns (names of people, places and events), numbers (dates, years and phone numbers), and people's titles, and generally check that what you're writing is true. When checking your facts, make sure the sources you using are credible and up to date, especially websites.

3. Writing style should be consistent—always—throughout a story, throughout a magazine, throughout a series. Instances of inconsistency can look like mistakes.

4. When writing out a Pitt address, the first line is always University of Pittsburgh. The next line is the school, then the department and then a person’s name (if the mail is going to someone specific). Then write the office number and building. Finally, write the street address and the city, state and zip code. See the Addresses section for details.

5. Don’t rely on spell check! One letter can make the difference between the word you want and an embarrassing mistake. Spell check will not flag a misspelled word if your misspelling is another (correctly spelled) word. Check your spelling, and consider asking your colleagues to proofread your writing.
6. **To capitalize or not to capitalize?** That is often the question. Capitalizing a word because it is important may not be the correct thing to do. For everything you ever wanted to know about capitalization, see the Capitalization section of this manual.

7. **Old habits are hard to break, but let's break this one.** In the word-processing age, we use only **one space after a period or a colon**. The convention of using two spaces between sentences and after a colon is a holdover from the typewriter age, and it went out with carbon paper.

8. **Learn the proper way to refer to degrees.**
   **These are right:**
   - Bachelor of Science, bachelor's degree, BS
   - Master of Arts, master's degree, MA
   - Doctor of Philosophy, doctorate, PhD
   **These are wrong:**
   - Bachelor's of Science, Bachelors Degree, B.S.

9. **The Finer Points**

10. **The law affects our writing.** At Pitt, the full names of the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, Swanson School of Engineering and Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences must be used in the first and most prominent references in a publication. That stipulation is in the contract between the University and the donors. Court rulings about affirmative action programs at the University of Michigan have altered the way we describe outreach to disadvantaged and underrepresented student populations. We also must be careful not to libel or defame people in our writing. The Associated Press Stylebook includes an excellent summary of libel law.

11. **See Appendix 1 for a list of commonly misused words** and how to use them properly. Your boss might even compliment you on how you've complemented your professional development with this style manual!

12. **Watch your words.** To show sensitivity to the rich variety of ethnicities, races, religions and other aspects of individuals' identities, we must respect cultural, personal and religious differences. Don't mention ethnic, racial or other individual characteristics unless they are pertinent and their relevance is clear to the reader. If an attribute is relevant and you're writing about a specific person, find out the term the person prefers. Avoid using gender-specific words such as chairman, mailman and fireman when you can easily substitute words such as chair, letter carrier and firefighter. Also, use the terms winter recess and holiday party rather than Christmas break and Christmas party, as not everyone celebrates the same holidays.

13. **Making It Sing**

   **Don't lean on jargon!** We want people to understand the great work that is being done at the University of Pittsburgh and by its alumni, so explain it in simple, everyday English. Jargon includes any words, phrases and descriptions used by members of a discipline to describe their work to other people in the same field, and we must avoid it when we write for external audiences.

14. **Keep your writing active** whenever possible, including in headlines. All sentences have subjects, objects and verbs. When the subject of a sentence performs an action, the sentence is written in active voice. When the subject is being acted upon, the sentence is written in passive voice. Using passive voice makes writing harder to understand.

15. **Humor is a matter of personal taste,** and wordplay, sarcasm, exaggeration and other devices should be used with great care. Consider the context of what you're writing; a document that's the official voice of University policy requires a different tone than an email to colleagues or friends. When in doubt, leave it out.
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ABBREVIATIONS

1. In body copy, do not abbreviate streets, avenues, boulevards or roads or directions that are part of their names unless listed as part of a numbered address.

   The student lives on North Craig Street in Pittsburgh.
   The GPS address for the William Pitt Union is 3959 Fifth Ave.
   Oakland is divided by Fifth and Forbes avenues.

2. Spell out the days of the week.

3. Spell out the months of the year when they are on their own or given with a year. When given with a specific date, abbreviate Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. March, May, June and July are always spelled out.

4. Use capitalized initials without periods for acronyms and abbreviations used as words—NATO, EPA, UPMC, NAACP, USO, NOW, CDC, FBI, CIA, etc. With some exceptions (e.g., UPMC, SAT, ACT, RSVP and ID), these and other abbreviations are always written out on first reference with the acronym following in parentheses if the acronym is used again in the same document. The word the is not needed before an acronym, as it is typically understood.

5. Spell out the names of U.S. states when they stand alone in text and when they follow the name of a city. Always use the state's two-letter postal abbreviation without periods when giving a full mailing address, both within text and on mailers, including all envelopes. (See Appendix 4 for proper state abbreviations and for postal information. Also see the Addresses section.)

6. Do not begin a sentence with an abbreviation. Right: Page 12 contains a mistake.
   Wrong: P. 12 contains a mistake.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR/TERMS

Lowercase the names of terms in text.

The fall term runs from August through December.
I believe summer session I runs in May and June.

AD/CE

Although AD is more commonly used, CE (common era) is permissible and appropriate in writing in certain contexts and is more inclusive of people of all faiths. Consider the discipline and its conventions when selecting one or the other. Also use capitalized initials without periods. (Also see the BC/BCE and Dates, Years sections.)

ADRESSES

1. In body copy, do not abbreviate streets, avenues, boulevards, roads, cities or states unless written as part of a numbered address. Do not abbreviate directions that are part of these names. (Also see the Washington, D.C., section.)

   The office is on South Craig Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
   Lowercase the words streets, roads, avenues, etc. when discussing more than one.
   Oakland is divided by Fifth and Forbes avenues.

2. When giving a full mailing address with a zip code, abbreviate the state with the proper postal abbreviation. On business reply cards and all envelopes, postal regulations require two spaces between the state abbreviation and the zip code. (See Appendix 4 for postal abbreviations.)

   University of Pittsburgh
   Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
   Department of Psychology
   John Smith
   3117 Sennott Square
   210 South Bouquet St.
   Pittsburgh, PA  15260

3. When referencing an address within copy, separate elements with commas. University of Pittsburgh should always be the first line for all University addresses.

   Return all materials to University of Pittsburgh, Swanson School of Engineering, Department of Bioengineering, John Smith, 749 Benedum Hall, 3700 O'Hara St., Pittsburgh, PA  15261.

ADVISOR

When referring to those who provide academic and career advice at the University of Pittsburgh, the spelling advisor is preferred. Adviser is acceptable for nonacademic use.

AFRICAN AMERICAN

This phrase is never hyphenated unless it is hyphenated as part of an official name. Ethnicity and race should be mentioned only when they are pertinent and their pertinence is clear to the reader. (See the Student Terminology section.)

AGE

Use a numeral when referring to age, even when it is less than 10.

The 3-year-old child went to nursery school each morning.
Children ages 3-5 attend nursery school in the building.
The woman is in her 30s. (Note: no apostrophe)

ALUMNA, ALUMNUS, ALUMNAE, ALUMNI

An alumna is a female (or person who identifies as female) who has attended or graduated from a particular school, college or university; the plural is alumnae. An alumnus is a male (or person who identifies as male) who has attended or graduated from a school, college or university; the plural is alumni. In instances involving more than one gender, the term alumni is used.
In more casual writing or instances in which the gender of a graduate is unknown, alum may be used.

Identify graduates of the University of Pittsburgh by the abbreviations of their schools and/or colleges and their class years with an apostrophe before the last two digits of the year (within the last 100 years; use all four digits of the year for alumni who graduated more than 100 years ago). If a person received more than one degree from Pitt, use the school/college abbreviation(s) and years separated by a comma. A G after a year indicates a graduate degree. If a school grants only graduate degrees (e.g., School of Medicine, School of Law), the G is redundant and should not be used. (See Appendix 3 for school and college abbreviations.)

Mary Stuart (SOC WK '74, '76G) attended the reunion last year.

James Harper (A&S '03, '05G, GSPIA '09) will be speaking on the panel.

AMPERSAND

An ampersand (&) may be used in graphic marks and acronyms as well as in official names of companies, organizations and publications. Never use an ampersand instead of the word and in text.

Mary Smith (A&S '05)

Mary Smith majored in psychology in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

APOSTROPHE

1. Do not use apostrophes in the plurals of figures, years or abbreviations.
   - the late 1700s, the late '60s, CDs, PCs, MBAs
2. Use apostrophes in the plurals of single letters and academic grades.
   - Three r's and two s's were missing from the sign after the windstorm.
   - “Getting all A's on a report card is best,” she said, “but a few B's and C's aren't awful.”

3. Possessives of abbreviations are formed the same way they would be if the nouns were spelled out.
   - the AMA's committee
   - the two RAs' decisions

4. Associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees should always be written with an 's. Never write masters' degree or masters degree. (Also see the Degrees section.)
   - Mary received her master's degree from Pitt in 1967.

5. Punctuate the year of graduation with an apostrophe.
   - Tom McGuire (SOC WK '83)

ART

Capitalize the titles of works of art (paintings, drawings, sculptures, etc.) and place them in quotation marks.

Vincent Van Gogh’s “The Starry Night” is one of his most famous paintings.

ARTICLES (IN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, JOURNALS, ETC.)

Articles in magazines, newspapers or academic journals are in quotation marks and principal words are capitalized; magazine, newspaper and journal titles are capitalized.

She wrote “Raising Healthy Horses,” published in the latest issue of Equus.

Mary bought The New York Times at the airport.

She found his name in a New York Times article.

George Will’s “The INS in Flux” in today's Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was interesting.

AVENUE

See the Addresses section.

AWARDS, PRIZES

Capitalize the official names of awards and prizes but not some terms used with the names.

Dickson Prize in Medicine, Dickson Medal, the medal, medal awardee

Nobel Prize in Physics, Nobel Peace Prize, Nobel Prize winner, Nobel laureate

B

BC/BCE

Although BC is more commonly used, BCE (before the common era) is permissible and appropriate in writing in certain contexts and is more inclusive of people of all faiths. Consider the discipline and its conventions when selecting one or the other. Also use capitalized initials without periods. (Also see the AD/CE and Dates sections.)

BLACK

Capitalize this term. It may sometimes be used interchangeably with African American. When practicable, ask the person(s) being described for input.

Ethnicity and race should be mentioned only when they are pertinent and their pertinence is clear to the reader. (See the Student Terminology section.)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On first reference, capitalize Board of Trustees when referring to Pitt’s governing body; thereafter, use the board or the trustees.

Eva Tansky Blum, chair of the Board of Trustees, said today that the University had a very successful year. She noted that three new trustees were appointed to the board.

BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS

See the Capitalization and Titles (Other) sections.
BUILDINGS
Capitalize the official names of buildings and specially designated rooms. Refer to this list for official building names and correct mailing addresses.
Wesley W. Posvar Hall (subsequent references: Posvar Hall)
Litchfield Towers A (subsequent references: Tower A)
Thomas Detre Hall of the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (subsequent references: Detre Hall, or, if referring to the hospital only, WPIC, not Western Psych)
Heinz Memorial Chapel (subsequent references: Heinz Chapel or the chapel)
Cathedral of Learning (subsequent references: the Cathedral)
UPMC Presbyterian (not Presbyterian University Hospital; see Appendix 5)
Hillman Cancer Center (Do not use Hillman Center or the center on subsequent references; use the entire name.)
Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower (subsequent references: Starzl Tower)
Biomedical Science Tower 3 (subsequent references: BST3)

CANNOT
Cannot is preferred. Do not use can not.

CAPITALIZATION
(Also see the Departments, Offices, Programs, Schools section.)
1. Capitalize the first letter of elements of hyphenated compounds only if they are proper nouns or adjectives.
   - Arab-Israeli negotiations
   - post-World War II economy
   - Spanish-speaking people
   - an A-frame house
2. Capitalize the first letter of nouns or adjectives designating parts of the world or regions of a country or those used as part of a street name.
   - The situation in the Middle East is always in flux.
   - The Western Hemisphere contains many industrialized countries.
   - The South seceded from the Union during the Civil War.
   - He lived on South Marigold Street.
   - Jane lived on the East Coast, Mary on the West Coast.
   - Coal and steel were two important industries in Western Pennsylvania.
   - He lived on the South Side.
   - Also capitalize the first letter of each word in regional terms that are considered cultural entities as much as geographic locations.
   - Many Pitt students come from Southwestern Pennsylvania.
3. Lowercase when a reference is to a simple direction.
   - She drove north for several miles.
   - The town was east of the Mississippi River.
4. Do not capitalize the names of the seasons within text.
   - Her book is due out in the spring.
   - Applications for the fall term are due in April.
5. Capitalize the first letter of each principal word in full names of legislative, executive and administrative bodies on first reference.
   - The U.S. Supreme Court debated the case yesterday.
   - The Federal Reserve Board helps to determine fiscal policy.
6. Capitalize corporate, professional and governmental titles when they immediately precede a person's name.
   - President Franklin D. Roosevelt
   - Queen Elizabeth II
   - Senator Bob Casey
   - Professor White
7. Lowercase nonspecific noun and adjective references.
   - We sat in on the congressional hearings.
   - The Tennessee Valley Authority is a federal agency.
   - He wants to be governor of Pennsylvania.
   - The president was elected yesterday.
8. Capitalize political organizations and their members.
   - The article said that Democrats were criticizing the Republican Party.
9. Lowercase nouns and adjectives designating political and economic systems and their proponents unless derived from a proper noun.
   - The country's ideas of democracy originated in Greece.
   - Some countries, however, lean toward Marxism.
10. Capitalize numerical designations of historical time periods when they are part of a proper name.
    - The Third Reich ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945.
    - But lowercase the following. Also, do not superscript st/rd/th in ordinal numbers.
    - Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 15th century.
    - Technology changes quickly in the 21st century.
    - The Venerable Bede died in the eighth century.
11. Capitalize nouns used with numbers or letters to designate major reference headings.
   I believe Volume V of the magazine came out in June.
   See Table 3 for more information.
   See Chapter 7 for more details.
   But: the third chapter

12. Lowercase nouns designating minor reference headings.
   She turned to page 101 for more information.
   The war was described in paragraph six.

13. Capitalize genus names in biological terminology, but lowercase species names.
   The domestic dog is included in the genus Canis.
   A common fruit fly is Drosophila melanogaster.

14. Capitalize terms that identify geological eras, periods, epochs and strata; also capitalize the word age in names such as Age of Fishes.
   The class studies the Mesozoic era.
   The Quaternary period will be studied in the spring.
   All the students wanted to learn more about the Age of Reptiles.

15. Capitalize the titles of newspapers, magazines, journals, websites and religious texts.
   The article will be published in the next issue of JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association.
   Details of the event will be posted on Facebook.
   The course on comparative religions will cover the Bible, the Torah and the Koran.

16. The titles of books, book chapters, poems, plays, short stories, essays, movies, pamphlets, CDs, long musical compositions, songs, radio and TV programs, lectures, dissertations, articles, and works of art should be capitalized and put in quotation marks.
   Shakespeare’s “Othello” will be presented next week.
   Gainsborough’s “Blue Boy” will be part of the exhibition.
   Robert Frost’s “Dust of Snow” is a beautiful poem.
   The third chapter of “Treasure Island” is titled “The Black Spot.”

17. Capitalize common titles of book sections when they refer to a section in the same book.
   See the Appendix for further information.
   But: Smith said that her husband wrote the introduction to her book.

18. Capitalize nouns and adjectives designating philosophical, literary, musical, and artistic movements, styles, and schools if they are derived from proper nouns.
   Chopin was a composer of the Romantic period.
   But: Irving Berlin was a composer of romantic songs.

19. Capitalize acronyms/initialisms and do not use periods. With the exception of UPMC, RSVP, CD, SAT, ACT and ID (as in ID badge), abbreviations are usually written out on first reference with the acronym following in parentheses. Give acronyms/initialisms only if they will be used.
   Individualized Educational Program (IEP)

**CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY**

**CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING**
Both the C and the L in Cathedral of Learning should always be capitalized. In subsequent references, Cathedral may be used, but the C should be capitalized. The reason for this is that the building is not actually a cathedral.

The Cathedral of Learning is one of the tallest academic buildings in the world. The Cathedral houses the beautiful Nationality Rooms.

Heinz Memorial Chapel is a remarkable architectural achievement. The chapel is a favorite wedding spot for Pitt alumni.

**CD**
This abbreviation for compact disc does not need to be spelled out on first reference. Titles of CDs and the songs on them are capitalized and placed in quotation marks.

“Piano Man” was her favorite song on Billy Joel’s “Greatest Hits.”

**CE**
See the [AD/CE and Dates, Years] sections.

**CENTERS, INSTITUTES, LABORATORIES**
(Also see the [Departments, Offices, Programs, Schools] section.)
Capitalize the full name on first reference. See examples for subsequent references.

- John C. Mascaro Learning Center (subsequent references: Mascaro Learning Center or the center)
- Institute for Higher Education Management (subsequent references: the institute)
- Heinz Nutrition Laboratory (subsequent references: the laboratory)
- McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine (subsequent references: McGowan Institute or the institute)

A list of official names at the University of Pittsburgh is available online.

**CENTS**
Sums of dollars and cents are transcribed in numerical figures, whether below 10 or not.

$5 (not $5.00), $35, 54 cents

**CENTURY**
(Also see the Dates section.)
Do not capitalize the c in century, and do not superscript st/nd/rd/th after the number.

Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 15th century.

The professor said to read the chapter about 18th-century art.

The Venerable Bede died in the eighth century.
**CHANCELLOR**
(Also see the Referencing People section)
All of the following are correct:
University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Patrick Gallagher
Chancellor Gallagher
Patrick Gallagher, chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
Patrick Gallagher, Pitt’s chancellor
When the title stands alone without the name or follows the name, use lower case, as in the University chancellor or the chancellor.

**CHAPTERS (OF BOOKS)**
See the Capitalization and Numbers sections.

**CITY OF PITTSBURGH**
Capitalize the c in city when it is part of an official name of a municipality, committee or event. Lowercase the word city when making general references.
The city of Pittsburgh is a great place to live.
I ran in the 2005 Richard S. Caligiuri City of Pittsburgh Great Race.
The City of Pittsburgh levies taxes on its residents.

**CLASS**
For information on writing the names/titles of classes, see the Courses, Classes, Majors section. Capitalize the word class when it is used with a year. Otherwise, it is lowercased.
He graduated as a member of the Class of 1970.
He was treasurer of the class for several years.

**COLLECTIVE NOUNS**
A collective noun takes a singular verb when it refers to the collection as a whole and a plural verb when it refers to the members of the collection as separate persons or things.
The faculty is deliberating its decision.
The faculty have all gone home.

**COLONS**
1. The first word following a colon is usually lowercased, except when what follows is a quotation, a title or a complete sentence. Also, uppercase after a colon in a brief heading or introductory term.
   He had only one pleasure: eating.
   When asked, the publisher said: “This book will become a best seller.”
2. Capitalize the first word following a colon in a title.
   Mary Smith: An Annotated Biography
3. A colon is placed outside quotation marks and parentheses.
   There were three reasons she liked the article “A New Millennium”: its organization, its flow and its ending.
   The following is from the World Dictionary (published in 1985): Language evolves from older forms into newer ones.
4. Use one space after a colon.

**COMMAS**
1. Use a comma between the elements in a series of three or more except in the simplest of series, when the comma after the penultimate item in the series (the serial comma) can be omitted. Use the serial comma in any series if there is any possibility of confusion or misunderstanding.
   The colors red, white and blue are symbolic of the United States.
   To be eligible to graduate, students need to fill out and file the proper forms and applications, complete all outstanding assignments, and be sure that they are in good standing with the University.
2. Do not separate a name from a suffix (Jr., Sr., or a numeral) with a comma.
   Mark L. Conley Jr. will speak to the group.
   William P. Frederick III
3. Any word, phrase or clause that is not essential to the meaning of a sentence is called nonrestrictive. Set off nonrestrictive elements with commas.
   George Washington, the first president of the United States, lived at Mount Vernon.
   The Ohio River, which flows to the Mississippi, forms in Pittsburgh.
   His wife, Vicky, is an expert at sewing.
4. Restrictive words, phrases or clauses are necessary to the meaning of a sentence and are not set off by commas.
   Shakespeare’s play “Othello” was presented at the theater.
   (The name of the play is essential to the meaning.)
   People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.
5. Do not use a comma between two adjectives when the first modifies the combination of the second adjective plus the word or phrase it modifies.
   a cheap fur coat
   a modern three-story building

**COMMONLY MISUSED WORDS**
See Appendix 1.

**COMMENCEMENT**
See the Special Events section.

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**
Pennsylvania is legally a commonwealth, not a state. Lowercase commonwealth when the word stands alone or in the phrase commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
Many students who attend Pitt are residents of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
Many students live in the commonwealth.

**COMPANY NAMES**
Use official company names, and follow the company’s lead regarding punctuation and the use of the word and or an ampersand. A shortened or less formal name may be
used if the company is best known by that name. Capitalize the word the before a company name if it is part of the official name.

**COMPUTER TERMINOLOGY**

1. **Terms:** Use blog, CD, database, Ethernet, homepage, internet, online, offline, username, podcast, webmaster, World Wide Web.

2. **Email:** Use email within copy; in a list, such as on a poster or brochure, use Phone, Fax, Email.

3. **Breaking website URLs on two or more lines:** Use good judgment in continuing website addresses onto another line within copy. Generally, try to break after a slash. Breaking a URL after a dot (leaving what looks like a period at the end of a line) may cause confusion for the reader. It would be better to place the dot at the beginning of the next line. Using a hyphen to break a word at the end of a line is not a good idea because some URLs contain hyphens as part of the address. Instead, put the entire word on the next line. If the URL covers two or more lines of text, consider using a URL shortener to make it both easier to fit in your text and easier for someone to type correctly into a browser.

4. **Web addresses at the end of sentences:** Use a period after a web address that ends a sentence.

5. **Web addresses in text:** When referencing complete website addresses, there is no need to underline, italicize or boldface them. Also avoid using angle brackets around URLs.

6. **Using http and www:** Http stands for Hypertext Transfer Protocol. It is no longer necessary when printing website addresses to start them with http. In addition, not all URLs start with www, and some addresses will not work if www is added. Before including a web address, verify that the URL works as written and then publish it accordingly. If necessary, consult the office, department or unit responsible for the website and find out the appropriate address.

7. **Login/log in:** Logon and login can be nouns or adjectives, but log off, log on and log in are verbs. Use your login name to log on, but be sure to log off when you are done with the network.

**CONFERENCES**

Capitalize principal words of the titles of conferences or annual meetings. Titles of individual lectures or presentations at a conference are capitalized and in quotation marks.

Mina Smith gave the lecture “Women in the Arts” at the annual Arts and Writing Conference.

The School of Education will host the 2020 Principals Conference on Psychology in Education.

**COURSES, CLASSES, MAJORS**

Capitalize a subject of study when used as the name of a specific course. Otherwise, do not capitalize names of fields of study, major areas or major subjects except those words that are proper nouns (names of languages, geographic locations, etc.).

I have to take Economics 204 to graduate, but I won’t need any more economics courses after that.

She will take Anthropology 780: Cultural Anthropology next term.

All students must meet requirements in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Mary is studying biology now, but her first major was English literature.

**DASHES**

Below is a summary of the main uses of em dashes and hyphens. There should be no space between the dash/hyphen and the text surrounding it.

1. **Em dashes** are used to set off parenthetical content that deserves emphasis; set off appositives that contain commas; and set off a list, a restatement, an amplification or a dramatic shift in tone or thought.

She uses all sorts of seasonings in her cooking—cumin, tarragon, ginger and coriander, for example.

The kiwi—a small, flightless bird—is the national symbol of New Zealand.

I just don’t see the point of this—but I digress.

2. **Hyphens** are used for connecting continuing or inclusive numbers, like dates or reference numbers.

1968-72 pp. 38-45

May-June 2003 John 4:3-6:2

Hyphens also are used to separate noninclusive numbers, such as phone numbers and Social Security numbers.

412-555-1212

Additionally, hyphens are used in compound words and in word divisions. (Also see the Hyphens, Compounds section.)

*non-English-speaking countries* poverty-stricken individuals much-needed vacation

**DATES, YEARS**

(Also see the *Century* section.)

1. Use figures for the days of the month. Omit rd, th, st and nd following the numerals.

Nov. 3
2. Commas are used to set off the year from the day of the month. When only the month and the year are given, the comma is omitted. Use a comma to set off a full date (month, day, year) from the text that follows.

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1991, at 10 a.m., the board met to discuss the issue.

The play was introduced to the public in July 1950.

3. Although BC and AD are more commonly used, BCE (before the common era) and CE (common era) are permissible and appropriate in writing in certain contexts and are more inclusive of people of all faiths. Consider the discipline and its conventions when selecting BC/AD or BCE/CE. Be consistent. Also use capitalized initials without periods.

4. Use a hyphen for inclusive years. For inclusive years in the same century, use only the last two digits of the year after the hyphen. For inclusive years spanning more than one century, use all four digits of the year after the hyphen.

This fee applies to the 2019-20 academic year.
The years she lived in Pittsburgh were 1982-2003.

5. Do not use apostrophes in the plurals of years.

the 1800s, the ‘60s

6. Avoid vague references to dates. Use specific dates instead.

In fall 2006

Not: Last fall

DAYS
Spell out the days of the week.

We usually meet on Thursdays, but this week we will be meeting on Tuesday.

DEGREES (ACADEMIC)
(Also see the Student Terminology section.)

1. Academic degrees can be abbreviated or spelled out. If abbreviations are used, do not use periods between initials.

Baker earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism.

Smith earned a BA in journalism at Pitt in 1989.

Baker received his bachelor’s degree from Pitt.

Jones earned a Master of Fine Arts at Pitt.

Jones received an MFA from the University.

Jones received a master’s degree from Pitt.

2. When referring to a doctorate, use the following:

Jones earned her doctoral degree at Pitt.

Jones earned her doctorate at Pitt.

Jones received her PhD in psychology in 1970.

Jones received a Doctor of Philosophy from Pitt in June.

3. For honors references, do not capitalize or italicize cum laude, magna cum laude or summa cum laude.

Amy received a Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies from Pitt. She said that this certificate helped her to qualify for a job at a women's shelter.

This student has earned a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology.

DEGREES (TEMPERATURE)
Spell out the word degree(s) after a number. (See the Numbers section.)

DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS, SCHOOLS

1. Capitalize the names of academic departments, offices, programs and schools when the formal name is used. Also capitalize a short form of the name when not accompanied by the word department, office, program or school if lack of capitalization could create confusion. Use lowercase in all other instances. Refer to this page for an updated list of formal names of the University's departments, offices, programs and schools.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine is among the best in the country. The medical school is located in Scaife Hall.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences awards both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Many Health and Rehabilitation Sciences undergraduates go on to pursue graduate degrees.

The Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program at Pitt is very popular.

Many students apply for the program in gender, sexuality, and women's studies during their sophomore year.

The Department of Philosophy owns a large number of research books.

“Where is the philosophy department located?” asked the student.

2. There are three named schools at the University of Pittsburgh: the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, the Swanson School of Engineering and the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

The legal contracts between the University and the donors stipulate that the full name of each school must be used in the first and most prominent references. Shortened names may be used on subsequent references as follows:

Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business: Katz Graduate School of Business, Katz School, Katz

Swanson School of Engineering: Swanson School

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences: Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Dietrich School

3. Capitalize the names of administrative departments and offices when the formal name is used. Also capitalize a short form of the name when not accompanied by the word department or office on a subsequent reference if lack of capitalization could create confusion. Refer to this page for an updated...
list of the formal names of the University's departments, offices, programs and schools.

Pitt Magazine is produced by the Office of University Communications and Marketing.

University Communications and Marketing produces more than 6,000 print projects each year.

4. Lowercase a general reference to the University's schools of the health sciences. Do capitalize the entity University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences.

The University of Pittsburgh's schools of the health sciences have earned much praise in recent years.

This program is presented by University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences and the Office of International Services.

5. University of Pittsburgh Police Department is the official name of the University's law enforcement agency. On subsequent references, use University police or Pitt police. Do not use campus police.

DIRECTIONS
See the Capitalization section.

DISSERTATIONS
Capitalize the principal words and place quotation marks around the names of academic papers, dissertations, essays, lectures and theses. (See the Capitalization and Titles [Other] sections.)

Her dissertation was titled “Reactions in the Luteal Phase.”

DOLLARS
Sums of dollars and cents are transcribed in numerical figures whether below 10 or not. (See the Numbers section.)

$5 (not $5.00), $35, 54 cents

When describing numerical amounts equal to or greater than a million, use a numeral and the word million, billion, etc.

There is a $5 million endowment.

Not: There is a five-million-dollar endowment. There is a $5,000,000 endowment.

E

ELLIPSISES
1. Use three ellipsis points to indicate the omission of one or more words within quoted materials. Use a space before and after, but not between, ellipses.

“Ellipsis points are used ... to indicate the omission of one or more words.”

2. Use four ellipsis points to indicate the omission of the last words of a quoted sentence. If the portion of the sentence that is being quoted reads like a complete sentence, use one period, a space, and three ellipsis points. If the sentence is incomplete, use a space and four ellipsis points.

“Ellipsis points are used by editors to indicate omissions. ...”

“Ellipsis points are used by editors to indicate ....”

3. Do not use ellipsis points at the beginning of a sentence when part of a quote is omitted.

“And Jill came tumbling after” is the part of the nursery rhyme that most people forget.

EMAIL
See the Computer Terminology section.

ENDOWED CHAIRS, PROFESSORSHIPS
When a faculty member holds an endowed chair or distinguished professorship, the first letter of each principal word is capitalized. When the chair itself is part of a formal name, it also should be capitalized.

William P. Thomas, who is the R.K. Mellon Professor of Physics and Distinguished Service, will be the guest speaker.

The company's gift helped to establish the J.W. Smith Chair in Psychology.

Robert Brandom, Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy, will present some of his research findings at the conference.

Weidlein Chair in Environmental Engineering; the Weidlein professorship

ETHNICITY AND RACE
Ethnicity and race should be mentioned only when they are pertinent and their pertinence is clear to the reader.

In light of the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court ruling (Grutter v. Bollinger et al.) related to the University of Michigan Law School's admissions policy, language concerning affirmative action and the recruitment of traditionally underrepresented populations must be carefully chosen and consistent with the law. The specific language that should be used is the province of legal counsel and should be decided on a case-by-case basis. When working on copy/text related to the recruitment of traditionally underrepresented populations, contact the Office of University Communications for assistance.

F

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS
Capitalize the official names of fellowships and scholarships. On subsequent references, the terms fellow and school should be lowercased unless they come directly before a name.

Helen Faison Scholarship; Faison scholar or Faison scholarship

Fulbright scholar; Fulbright Scholar Jane Doe

National Merit scholarships

Andrew Mellon Fellowship; Mellon fellow

FORMS
For the sake of clarity, capitalize the names of forms in copy-dense material, such as school
Student must fill out the Grade Option form and the Request for Education Benefits form.

FUNDRAISER/FUNDRAISING
Use as one word, without a hyphen, in all instances, unless it is set for differently as part of a proper name.

GENUS NAMES
See the Capitalization section.

GRADES
Capitalize letter grades, and use an apostrophe before the s to make them plural.

"Getting all A's on a report card is best," she said, "but a few B's and C's aren't awful."

GRANTS, GRANT PROPOSALS
Capitalize the principal words of and put in quotation marks the titles of grant proposals.

Nicole Ansani earned one of four research grants from the Drug Information Association for her proposal, titled "Provision of Drug Information to Patients with Diabetes Using an Interactive Forum."

The principal words of funded grants should be capitalized.

H

HEALTH CARE
Use as two words without a hyphen in all cases unless the term is treated differently as part of a proper name.

The program provided young children with access to quality health care.

Health care benefits are part of the company's compensation package.

The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System benefits many veterans.

HEALTH SCIENCES
See the Departments, Offices, Programs, Schools section.

HOMECOMING
See the Special Events section.

HOSPITALS
UPMC is the umbrella organization for most of the hospitals and clinical activities associated with the University. See Appendix 5 for the names of UPMC hospitals.

HYPHENS, COMPOUNDS
(Also see the Dashes section.)

1. Most two-word compound adjectives are hyphenated when placed before the noun they modify.

Aspirin is usually a fast-acting medication.

The artist uses high-quality metals in his jewelry.

The committee followed the established decision-making process.

2. Compound adjectives of three or more words are generally hyphenated when placed before the noun they modify.

It was strictly a spur-of-the-moment decision.

3. When the words that make up a compound adjective follow the noun they modify, they are generally not hyphenated. A hyphen can be used if confusion would occur without it.

Decisions made on the spur of the moment generally are not good ones.

The main streets in the town were tree lined.

He attends college part time.

She lives on campus.
4. Do not put a hyphen between an adverb ending in -ly and an adjective.  
   He is a highly skilled craftsperson.

5. Do hyphenate all compound adjectives when the second adjective ends in -ed.  
   He is a high-spirited youngster.

6. Use hyphens with nouns that represent different and equally important functions when they form a single expression.  
   Sparta was an important city-state in ancient Greece.  
   This award recognizes exceptional student-athletes.  
   The schools of the health sciences are home to many notable physician-scientists.

7. The following prefixes are generally not hyphenated. They are hyphenated when the second element is capitalized or is a figure (e.g., post-Victorian, pro-Soviet, pre-1960s), there is a homonym (e.g., to recover a lost object and to re-cover a couch), or the use of a hyphen avoids a strange vowel connection that might cause confusion or be misleading (e.g., anti-inflation, co-owner, etc.).

   ante inter non sub
   anti intra over super
   bi macro post supra
   bio meta pre trans
   co micro pro ultra
   counter mid pseudo un
   extra mini re under
   infra multi re semi

   Postmaster Ken Smith is a post-master’s degree student.  
   But: Ken Jones is a postdoctoral student.

8. Almost all self- and ex- compounds are hyphenated except selfless, selfish and selfsame.  
   I will not indulge in self-pity.  
   His ex-wife is coming to the wedding.

9. Suffixes are rarely hyphenated. Exceptions include some forms of -wide and -like.  
   A hyphen can be used to aid in comprehension.

   The statewide initiative was successful.  
   The policy on nondiscrimination is University-wide at Pitt.  
   The internet outage is occurring campuswide.  
   The instrument had a bell-like sound.

I

INSTITUTES  
See the Centers, Institutes, Laboratories section.

J

JR., SR., NUMERALS IN A NAME  
Do not separate a name from a suffix (Jr., Sr. or a numeral) with a comma.
   Mark L. Conley Jr. will speak to the group.  
   William P. Frederick III will attend.

L

LABORATORIES  
See the Centers, Institutes, Laboratories section.

LATIN TERMS  
(Also see the Alumna, Alumni, Alumnae, Alumni section.)

1. Do not italicize Latin terms such as emeritus, alumnus, curriculum vitae (CV), pro bono or ad hoc when they appear in text.  
2. Emeritus is a term used for a person who has retired from an office or position or who has completed a term of service and has retained the last title held; emerita is the feminine form. The plurals of these terms are emeriti and emeritae, respectively.  
   Louise Smith, professor emerita of archaeology, gave a guest lecture last week.  
   Professors Emeriti Thomas Brown, Michael Gray and Hugh McFadden attended the anniversary gala.

3. The terms resume, curriculum vitaeae, vita and CV may be used interchangeably.

4. Be aware of the plural forms of some terms adopted from other languages. The word data is plural (the singular is datum), as are media (the singular is medium) and the Greek term criteria (the singular is criterion). The plurals of curriculum and symposium are curricula and symposia, but stadiums and gymnasiurns are commonly accepted plural spellings of stadium and gymnasmum. Refer to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary for the preferred spellings of plural Latin and Greek terms.

LECTURES, LECTURE TITLES  
Capitalize the principal words of the titles of lecture series or conferences. Titles of speeches or lectures should be capitalized and placed within quotation marks. (See the Capitalization and Titles [Other] sections.)  
Mina Smith gave the lecture “Women in the Arts” at the annual Arts and Writing Lecture Series.

LISTS  
1. Aim for simplicity and concision in any list. Most lists can be written as running lines of text, without the need for bullet points, numerals or any other way of indicating each item in the list.

2. If the items in a list read as a complete sentence, punctuate the entire list as such, using commas or semicolons at the end of each item, a conjunction at the end of the penultimate item, and a period at the end.  
   The charges brought against the driver included  
   • leaving the scene of an accident involving injury,  
   • driving with a suspended license, and  
   • driving while intoxicated.
   After careful investigation, the committee was convinced that  
   1. the organization’s lawyer, Watson, had consulted no one before making the decision;
2. neither the chair, the president, nor the secretary of the organization had contacted Watson; and
3. the president was as surprised as anyone by what had happened.

3. Strive for consistency within the list. If one of the items in the list starts with a capital letter, capitalize the first letter of all items. If one or more items is a complete sentence, ending with a period, punctuate all items as such.

“Piano Man” was her favorite song on Billy Joel’s CD “Greatest Hits.”

N

**NEWSPAPERS**

Capitalize titles of newspapers. If the word the precedes the name, capitalize it if it is part of the official name of the newspaper.

“Some people miss The Pittsburgh Press,” she said, “but most are happy with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.”

**NON-ENGLISH WORDS AND PHRASES**

Many non-English words and phrases have been so frequently used in English-speaking countries that they have been incorporated into the dictionary. If a word or phrase from another language appears in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, it can appear in text in roman. If it does not appear in the dictionary, put the word or phrase in quotation marks and give a definition in parentheses if necessary.

**NUMBERS**

1. Spell out the first nine cardinal numbers (one to nine), zero, and the first nine ordinal numbers (first to ninth). Use figures for numbers above nine.
   - Jane had four kittens in the basket.
   - Peter put 14 gerbils in the cage.
   - Read the ninth chapter but not the 10th chapter by tomorrow.
   - She teaches grades two and three.
   - His daughter is in the 11th grade.

2. Spell out any number that begins a sentence.
   - Fifty-four students attended the event.

**Exceptions:**

3. Use a numeral when referring to age, even when it is less than 10.

The 3-year-old child went to nursery school each morning.

Children ages 3-5 attend nursery school in the building.

The woman is in her 30s. (Note: no apostrophe)

4. When using percentages within body copy, the number is expressed in figures, even when it is less than 10, with the percent symbol (%). The word percent may be used in casual language. (Note: Percent is one word and is singular.)

Sam Rich said that 8% of the population is eligible for the program.

He has a zero percent chance of winning.

5. Sums of dollars and cents are written in numerical figures whether below 10 or not.
   - $5 (not $5.00), $35, 54 cents

6. When describing numerical amounts equal to or greater than a million, use a numeral and the word million, billion, etc.
   - The government spent $3.5 billion on the project.
   - There are 100 million people in that country.
   - There is a $5 million endowment.
   **Not:** five million dollar endowment

7. Use numerals for temperature. Write out the word degree(s).
   - It was 80 degrees in Florida that day.

8. Always use numerals when referring to measurements, times, page numbers, volumes, tables and chapters.

9. All numbers, even those less than 10, may be written as numerals for the sake of consistency.
   - The University offers 4-, 6- and 12-week sessions during the summer.
   - The school has been ranked 9th, 11th and 14th in the last three years by U.S. News & World Report.
OFFICES
See the Departments, Offices, Programs, Schools section.

Although the official title of an office is usually “Office of …,” exceptions do exist. One exception is the University of Pittsburgh Parking Services Office.

ORGANIZATIONS
Capitalize formal names of University organizations.
The University Senate has two subgroups: the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Council.
The Staff Council will meet next Friday afternoon.

In running text, an initial the in front of an organization name should be capped if part of the formal name.
The department has received a number of grants from The Pittsburgh Foundation.

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY, DEPARTMENT OF; ORTHOPAEDIC
The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the School of Medicine spells orthopaedic with an a. To be consistent, do the same.

P

PERCENT
When using percentages within body copy, the number is expressed in figures, even when it is less than 10, with the percent symbol (%). The word percent may be used in casual language. (Note: Percent is one word and is singular.)

Sam Rich said that 8% of the population is eligible for the program.
He has a zero percent chance of winning.

PHONE NUMBERS
As area codes are now required when dialing, omit parentheses and use hyphens when listing phone or fax numbers.
412-624-4141
Not: (412) 624-4147 or 412.624.4147
Use the 1 in front of toll-free numbers.
1-800-123-4567 or 1-877-987-6543

PITTSBURGHESE
Avoid the use of Pittsburgheese, as in the following:
The clothes need washed.
The dog needs out.
Say/write instead:
The clothes need to be washed.
The dog needs to go out.

PLURALS, POSSESSIVES
1. An apostrophe should be used to form a plural only in the case of single letters. Never use an ‘s to form a plural of a word.
   p’s and q’s
   Make sure to cross your t’s and dot your i’s.
   He received two A’s and three B’s on his report card.
2. To form a possessive of a singular word, add ‘s, including to words that end in s, with the exception of proper nouns ending in s and those words used primarily in a descriptive sense.
   the hostess’s invitation
   the witness’s answer
   Dickens’ novels
   Texas’ population
   teachers college

POEMS
See the Capitalization section.

POLICE
See the Departments, Offices, Programs, Schools section.

PREFIXES
See the Hyphens, Compounds section, item 7.

PROFESSORSHIPS
See the Endowed Chairs, Professorships section.

PROVED/PROVEN
The word proved is always either a verb or part of a verb phrase.
Joe proved that the problem existed.
Joe has proved that the problem existed.
Use the word proven only as an adjective.
The medicine was a proven remedy.

Q

QUOTATION MARKS
1. The comma and period go inside quotation marks.
   “I’m going home now,” said Mary.
   She said that the condition was “only temporary.”
2. The semicolon and colon almost always go outside quotation marks.
   She read “Dust of Snow”; it was her favorite poem.
   Find the following in the article “The Guide to Writing”: rules for capitalization, hyphens and commas.
3. A question mark, exclamation point or dash goes outside quotation marks unless it is part of the quotation. A single question mark goes inside quotation marks when both the nonquoted and quoted elements are questions.
   Did he say, “Where are my books?”
   “When did Fred go to Pitt?” asked Jean.
   What is meant by “dog eat dog?”
4. Use single quotation marks for quotations printed within other quotations.
   The witness said: “I heard him clearly state, ‘I will be back,’ before he left.”
5. If several paragraphs are to be quoted, use quotation marks at the beginning of each paragraph but only at the end of the last paragraph.
   “We are very excited about the opening of the 13th annual art show. As in years past, the artwork will be exhibited outdoors, weather permitting.
   “While many local artists will still be featured, new to the roster are artists from Ohio, West Virginia and New York.”
6. Do not use quotation marks for topics of talks, papers or presentations. Quotation marks should be used only for the titles of talks, papers or presentations.
   The guest lecturer gave a talk on democracy in ancient Greece.
   The guest speaker presented “Athens and Sparta: Views of Democracy in Ancient Greece” at the symposium.

REGIONAL CAMPUSES
See the Campuses section.

ROAD
See the Addresses section.

S

SCHOLARSHIPS
See the Fellowships, Scholarships section.

SCHOOLS
See the Departments, Offices, Programs, Schools section.
See Appendix 3 for official school names.

SEASONS
Do not capitalize fall, winter, spring or summer. (See the Capitalization section.)

SEMICOLON
1. Use a semicolon to separate independent clauses not joined by a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for).
   I know how to bake a cake; my mother would never attempt it.
2. Semicolons are used in place of commas to separate phrases in a series when the phrases themselves contain commas.
   He went to several factories, buildings and institutions; walked several miles, visiting friends; and then returned home to eat, rest and relax.
3. A semicolon is placed outside quotation marks and parentheses.
   I read the article “Children Today”; John Smith wrote it.
   There were three dogs in the park (two golden retrievers and one collie); all of them were on leashes.

SERIES
Capitalize the principal words of (and do not put in quotation marks) the titles of lecture/speaker series and conferences. Titles of individual speeches or lectures in a series should be capitalized and placed in quotation marks.
Mina Smith gave the lecture “Women in the Arts” at the annual Arts and Writing Lecture Series.
The School of Education will host the 2020 Principals Conference on Psychology in Education.

SOCIAL SECURITY
Within text, capitalize all references to the U.S. Social Security system.
Be sure to include the student’s Social Security number.
Contact the Social Security Administration for more information.

SONGS
See the Titles (Other) section.

SPACING
Double spacing after a period dates back to the days of typewriters. Today, computers adjust for proper spacing.
1. Therefore, in copy, use a single space after the period at the end of a sentence as well as a single space after colons and semicolons.
2. For abbreviations in names, use periods with no spaces between initials.
   R.K. Mellon
   W.E.B. DuBois

SPECIAL EVENTS
Generally, use lowercase letters for orientation, commencement, homecoming and the like.
Capitalize the names of those events when they immediately follow the words University of Pittsburgh or when they follow or precede a year. Engineers Week, Greek Week and the like
are capitalized. Always use lowercase letters when making a general reference.

Students should arrive at commencement an hour before the start of the program.
The University of Pittsburgh Commencement Convocation was enjoyable.
Many student organizations have committed to planning special events for homecoming.
She outlined the school's activities for Homecoming 2019.
Many universities plan to hold honors convocations.

**STREET**
See the Addresses section.

**STUDENT TERMINOLOGY**

1. Lowercase the terms designating academic years.
   - first-year student, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate student

2. Use the names of racial, linguistic, religious and other groups. Ethnicity and race should be mentioned only when they are pertinent and their pertinence is clear to the reader.
   - Caucasian, French, Hispanic, Catholic, African American, Black, White (Note: African American is not hyphenated. The terms Black and African American can sometimes be used interchangeably. If practicable, ask the person being described for input.)
   - The group was composed of both Black and White students.

3. When discussing years of graduation within text, use only the last two numerals of the year if the graduation year was in the last 100 years. Use all four numerals if there could be confusion between the 20th and 21st centuries.
   - Pam Schmidt ('12) is the most recent member of her family to graduate from Pitt. The first in her family to graduate from Pitt was her great-great-aunt Selma Johnson (1912).

4. Punctuate the year of graduation with an apostrophe before the year. Set off graduation information within text in parentheses, not commas. A G after a year indicates a graduate degree. If a school grants only graduate degrees (e.g., School of Medicine, School of Law), the G is redundant and should not be used. (See Appendix 3 for proper school/campus abbreviations.)
   - Elizabeth Mary Baker (SOC WK '65, '68G) and John Schmidt (ENGR '82, '85G) wrote notes to the editor.
   - Gavin Johnson (LAW '98) will speak to this year's graduating class.
   - If a student received more than one degree from the same school in the same year, the year needs to be noted only once. So, if Jane Doe received a BA in anthropology and a BS in biological sciences from the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences in 2014, her name would appear as follows:
   - Jane Doe (A&S '14)

5. Capitalize the word class when it is used with a year. Otherwise, it is lowercased.
   - He graduated as a member of the Class of 1970.
   - He was treasurer of the class for several years.

6. Lowercase designations of officers of a class, social organization, etc., except in front of a person's name.
   - She was treasurer of the Student Alumni Council.
   - He was elected junior class president.
   - Student Alumni Council Vice President Ann Jones also was present.

**TELEVISION PROGRAMS**
See the Titles (Other) section.

**TEMPERATURE**
Spell out the word degree(s) after a number. (See the Numbers section.)

**TERMS**
See the Academic Calendar/Terms section.

**TESTS**
For widely known standardized tests that would be familiar to a general audience, it is acceptable to use an acronym on the first reference. If the name of the test would be unfamiliar to a general audience, however, spell out and capitalize the full name of the test on first reference and give the acronym in parentheses. Lowercase the names of general tests.

Note: Some standardized test names that appear to be acronyms, such as SAT and ACT, are now trademarked terms and do not need to be spelled out in any instance.

Graduating nursing students often take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) following the completion of their studies.

Joan has just finished her algebra and biology tests.

**THAT/WHICH**
If the clause can be omitted without leaving the noun it modifies incomplete or without materially altering the sense of what is being said—or if it could be enclosed in parentheses—use which; otherwise, use that.

In other words, that is better used to introduce a limiting or defining clause, which to introduce a nondefining or parenthetical clause. The word which should be preceded by a comma and refers to the word directly before it.

The Ohio River, which flows to the Mississippi, forms in Pittsburgh.
The river that forms in Pittsburgh is the Ohio.

Generally speaking, which refers to things, who to persons, and that to either persons or things.

The man who answered the phone was my uncle.
My old car, which I dearly loved, was relegated to the junk heap.
The book that you sent arrived yesterday.
The crew that worked here left last week.
THESES
Capitalize the principal words of and place quotation marks around the names of academic papers, dissertations, essays, lectures and theses. Her dissertation was titled “Reactions in the Luteal Phase.”
See the Capitalization and Titles (Other) sections.

TIMES
1. Use numerals for the hours of the day. Use lowercase letters for and periods between a.m. and p.m. Also use noon and midnight, not 12 p.m. or 12 a.m. Do not use :00 for time that falls on the hour (except to accommodate specific design considerations on invitations, posters, catalogs or similar materials).
   - 4 p.m. (not 4 PM, 4 P.M., 4:00 p.m. or 4 pm)
   - 11 pm. (not 11:00 in the evening or 11 p.m. in the evening)
   - from 10:30 a.m. to noon (not from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon)
2. Use numerals for the time of day when it is followed by the contraction o’clock:
   - My appointment is at 10 o’clock tomorrow morning.
3. Use numerals for precise times.
   - Her plane is due in at 1:07 this afternoon.
   - I’ll be there at 9:15 in the morning.
4. When writing about a quantity of hours, minutes or seconds, spell out the first nine numbers (one through nine) as well as zero. Use figures for numbers greater than nine.
   - We drove for four hours and 20 minutes before we reached Washington, D.C.
5. No comma is necessary between a time and a day or date.
   - Her final paper is due by 5 p.m. Dec. 12.

TITLES OF PERSONS
1. Lowercase titles of persons except when used in front of the name or when a title is one of a kind.

TITLES (OTHER)
(Also see the Capitalization section.)
1. Book, book chapter, television show, movie, radio program and play titles are placed in quotation marks, and principal words are capitalized.
   - I read “Of Mice and Men” for my assignment.
   - Who wrote “The Color Purple”?
2. Article titles in magazines, journals and newspapers are placed in quotation marks, and principal words are capitalized; magazine, journal and newspaper names (including the word the, if part of the official name of the publication) are capitalized. Also see the Magazines and Newspapers sections for proper handling of publication names.
   - She wrote “Raising Health Horses” in the latest issue of Equus.
   - Mary bought The New York Times at the airport.
   - George Will’s “The INS in Flux” in today’s Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was interesting.
3. Place quotation marks around the names of academic papers, dissertations, grant proposals and theses, and capitalize principal words.
   - Her dissertation was titled “The Impact of Foreign Films on American Audiences.”
4. The principal words of the titles of musical works—operas, symphonies, CDs/albums, songs, etc.—are capitalized, and the titles are placed in quotation marks.
   - Verdi’s “Aida” is a famous opera.
   - Some people say that “America the Beautiful” should be our national anthem.
5. Capitalize the principal words of (and do not put in quotation marks) the titles of lecture/speaker series and conferences. Titles of lectures and speeches should be capitalized and in quotation marks.
   - Mina Smith gave the lecture “Women in the Arts” at the annual Arts and Writing Lecture Series.
   - The School of Education will host the 2020 Principals Conference on Psychology in Education.
UNITED STATES
Spell out United States when used as a noun; use U.S. (with periods) when used as an adjective or in tables and graphs.
People of many different ethnic origins live in the United States.
The U.S. Congress is in session now.

UNIVERSITY
The proper name of the institution is the University of Pittsburgh, and this should be used on first reference. Pitt or the University may be used on subsequent references. Never refer to the University as the U of Pitt, U of Pittsburgh, or Pitt U. (Note: On subsequent references, the U in University is capitalized when referring specifically to the University of Pittsburgh. Lowercase university when referring to any other institution or using the generic term.)
There are many fine programs at the University of Pittsburgh, and Pitt’s dental school is one of the best in the country.
The University faculty held its meeting in the Cathedral of Learning.
Pitt is an exceptional university.

UNIVERSITY BRAND AND VISUAL IDENTITY
A brand is an enduring platform that articulates an organization’s unique identity and point of view. It helps an organization to connect with many broad, diverse communities through informed and relevant interactions. The University has a master brand that is rooted in research and truth. Visit the University’s brand website for more details and for tips on crafting content.
The primary logo of the University is the shield and signature. The primary colors are Pitt Blue and Pitt Gold. Visit the University brand website for more details and for approved logos and color palettes.

UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS
Use these official names to refer to the following University publications:
Pittwire
Pittwire Health
@Pitt
Pitt Magazine
Pitt Med
University Times

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Use Washington, D.C., in text. Do not spell out District of Columbia. In an address, use Washington, DC (no periods).

WAY/WAYS
The word way is singular; the word ways is plural.
Pittsburgh is a long way from Los Angeles.
There are several ways to travel from Pittsburgh to Los Angeles.

WHO/WHOM
Who and whoever are used as subjects of verbs or as predicate pronouns. Whom and whomever are used as objects of verbs and prepositions.
Jane was the woman who told the story.
Whoever comes to the shelter will get help.
Whom were they talking about?
Bring whomever you like to the party.

YEARS
See the Dates, Years section.
APPENDIX 1: COMMONLY MISUSED WORDS

Our thanks to the Carnegie Mellon University Writer's Style Guide, the primary source for the following, which is used with permission.

adverse/averse
Adverse means unfavorable. Averse means reluctant.

affect/effect
To affect means (1) to influence, change or produce an effect; (2) to like to do, wear or use; or (3) to pretend. As a noun, affect is best avoided. (It is occasionally used in psychology to describe an emotion.) Effect is most commonly used as a noun, and it means result. Used as a verb, to effect means to accomplish, complete, cause, make possible or carry out.

As a general rule, if you’re looking for a noun, you’re probably looking for effect. If you’re using a verb, you’re safest with affect. (A correct use of effect as a verb is: The committee hopes to effect a change in the current policy.)

afterward not afterwards
all right not alright
allude/refer
To allude to means to speak of indirectly, without mentioning specifically. To refer to means to speak of directly.

allusion/illusion
An allusion is an indirect reference. An illusion is a false impression or image.

around/about
Around should refer to a physical proximity or surrounding: I’ll look for you around the front of the building. About indicates an approximation: Let’s have lunch about 11:30 a.m.

author
best as a noun, not a verb

beside/besides
Use beside to mean (1) at the side of (sit beside me); (2) to compare with (beside other studies); or (3) apart from (that’s beside the point).

Use besides to mean (1) furthermore (Besides, I said so.); (2) in addition to (and elm and maple trees besides); or (3) otherwise (There’s no one here besides Bill and me.).

between
Between takes an objective pronoun—me, her, him. “Between you and me” is correct; “Between you and I” is not.

biannual/biennial
Biannual means twice a year. Biennial means every two years.

complement/compliment
A complement is something that supplements. A compliment is praise or the expression of courtesy.

compose/comprise/constitute
Compose is to create or put together. Comprise is to contain, to include all, or to embrace. Constitute is to make up, to be the elements of. Never write “is comprised of.”

The whole comprises the parts.
The parts constitute the whole.
The whole is composed of parts.
The department comprises 12 people.
The department consists of 12 people.

continual/continuous
Continual refers to a steady repetition. Continuous means uninterrupted.

criteria
plural (more than one criterion, which is a quality, a value, or a standard of judgment)

curricula
plural (more than one curriculum, which is a program of academic courses or learning activities)

data
The plural noun usually takes a plural verb.
If used as a collective noun, when the group or quantity is regarded as a singular noun, it takes a singular verb. (The data is sound.)

daylight saving time
not daylight-savings time or daylight-saving time

different from
not different than

disinterested/uninterested
Disinterested means impartial. Uninterested means lacking interest.

Eastern Standard Time
not Eastern standard time or eastern standard time

entitled/titled
Entitled means having the right to something. Use titled to introduce the name of a work.

She is entitled to the inheritance.
The article is titled “Love and Illusion.”

farther/further
Farther refers to physical distance. Further refers to an extension of time or degree.

fewer/less
In general, use fewer for individual items, less for bulk or quantity.

hang/hung/hanged
Hang means to fasten or suspend, usually from above, with no support from below. Hung is the past tense of this verb and is used to refer to objects. Hanged refers to people and means to kill or commit suicide by suspending from the neck.

She hangs artwork for the gallery. Last week she hung 48 pieces.

Police found the prisoner had hanged himself before the trial.
health care
Use as two words without a hyphen in all cases, unless it is treated differently as part of a proper name.

historic/historical
Historic means important in history. Historical refers to any event in the past.

hopefully
Unless you're describing the way in which someone spoke, appeared or acted, do not use this word.

Right: I hope we can go.
Wrong: Hopefully, we can go.
Right: It is hoped the report will address that issue.
Wrong: Hopefully, the report will address that issue.
Right: She eyed the interview list hopefully.

imply/infer
Imply means to suggest or indicate indirectly. To infer is to conclude or decide from something known or assumed.

In general, if you imply something, you're sending out a message. If you infer something, you're interpreting a message.

in regard to
not in regards to
As regards or regarding may also be used.

insure/ensure
Insure means to establish a contract for insurance of some type. Ensure means to guarantee.

Right: It's between you and me.
Wrong: You can tell your supervisor or myself.
Right: I, myself, believe otherwise.

literally/figuratively
Literally means in an exact sense. Figuratively means metaphorically or in a manner of speaking.

like/as
Use like to compare nouns and pronouns. Use as to introduce clauses and phrases. Like is the preferred expression (rather than such as) in this kind of phrase: painters like Rubens.

let/leave
To let alone means to allow something to remain undisturbed. To leave alone means to depart from or cause to be in solitude.

me/myself
Me is the objective case of I. Myself is used reflexively, for emphasis, or in absolute construction.

Right: The principal rule in medicine is to do no harm.
I had difficulty understanding the principles of physics.

RSVP
Always use RSVP, not rsvp or R.S.V.P. Never say please RSVP; this is redundant.
shall/will
Shall is used for the first-person future tense.
I shall be indisposed in the days following my surgery.
If will is used for first-person future, it expresses his or her determination or consent. At other times, will is used for the second- and third-person future tense.
Although I have a cold, I will attend the luncheon tomorrow.

theater/theatre
In references to departments or proper nouns that use the spelling theatre, retain that spelling. In all other cases, use theater.
Students have many opportunities to go to the theater.
The Pittsburgh Public Theater and City Theatre both have nice venues.
Charity Randall Theatre
Henry Heymann Theatre
Studio Theatre

toward/towards
Toward is standard U.S. usage; towards is the predominant form in British English and should be avoided.

use/utilize
Use the word use. Utilize is the awkward verb form of the obsolete adjective utile.

-wise
Do not use this suffix to coin words such as weatherwise.

APPENDIX 2: COMMONLY MISSPELLED WORDS
accommodate
acknowledgment
(preferred over acknowledgement)
aesthetic
(preferred over esthetic)
antiquated
catalog
(preferred over catalogue)
commitment
conscience
consensus
counselor
dissension
drunkenness
ecstasy
embarrass
exhilarate
foreword
harass
hors d’oeuvres
inadvertent
indispensable
inoculate
insistent
irresistible
judgment
(preferred over judgement)
knowledgeable
liaison
memento
millennium
nickel
occurred
occurrence
perseverance
prerogative
privilege
proceed
sponsor
tyranous
vacuum
vilify
**APPENDIX 3: SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND CAMPUS ABBREVIATIONS**

**SCHOOLS**

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences (A&S)
Subsequent references: Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Dietrich School (Note: A&S is to be used only with degree year)

College of General Studies (CGS)

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA)*

Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH)*
(Note: GSPH is to be used only with degree year)
Subsequent references: Pitt Public Health

Pitt Business (BUS):
(Note: BUS is to be used only with degree year)
   Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business (KGSB)
   Subsequent references: Katz School of Business, Katz School

College of Business Administration (CBA)

School of Computing and Information (SCI)

School of Dental Medicine (DEN)*

School of Education (EDUC)

Swanson School of Engineering (ENGR)
Subsequent references: Swanson School

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS)

School of Law (LAW)*

School of Medicine (MED)*

School of Nursing (NURS)

School of Pharmacy (PHARM)

School of Social Work (SOC WK)

University Honors College (UHC)

**REGIONAL CAMPUS**

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (UPB)
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg (UPG)
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ)
University of Pittsburgh at Titusville (UPT)

* These schools grant only graduate degrees, so when listing a degree year with a graduate's name, a G is not required after the year.

For correct ways to refer to these schools and their students and graduates, see the Student Terminology section.

**APPENDIX 4: POSTAL INFORMATION AND STATE ABBREVIATIONS**

**Envelopes**

Now that computerized bar-coding and address-scanning equipment is used, the U.S. Postal Service advises against putting phone numbers, web addresses (particularly web addresses with numbers in them), or teasers that have numbers in them on envelopes or mailers. Contact the Office of University Communications for assistance with envelope or mailer copy to ensure proper and timely delivery.

**Abbreviations**

(Note: Use two spaces between state and zip code on business reply cards and on all envelopes.)

Alabama AL Ala.
Alaska AK Alaska
American Samoa AS American Samoa
Arizona AZ Ariz.
Arkansas AR Ark.
California CA Calif.
Colorado CO Colo.
Connecticut CT Conn.
Delaware DE Del.
District of Columbia DC D.C.
Florida FL Fla.
Georgia GA Ga.
Guam GU Guam
Hawaii HI Hawaii
Idaho ID Idaho
Illinois IL Ill.
Indiana IN Ind.
Iowa IA Iowa
Kansas KS Kan.
Kentucky KY Ky.
Louisiana LA La.
Maine ME Maine
Marshall Islands MH Marshall Islands
Maryland MD Md.
Massachusetts MA Mass.
Michigan MI Mich.
Minnesota MN Minn.
Mississippi MS Miss.
Missouri MO Mo.
Montana MT Mont.
Nebraska NE Neb.
Nevada NV Nev.
New Hampshire NH N.H.
New Jersey NJ N.J.
New Mexico NM N.M.
New York NY N.Y.
North Carolina NC N.C.
North Dakota ND N.D.
Ohio OH Ohio
Oklahoma OK Okla.
Oregon OR Ore.
Palau PW Palau
Pennsylvania PA Pa.
Puerto Rico PR Puerto Rico
Rhode Island RI R.I.
South Carolina SC S.C.
South Dakota SD S.D.
Tennessee TN Tenn.
Texas TX Texas
Utah UT Utah
Vermont VT Vt.
Virgin Islands VI Virgin Islands
Virginia VA Va.
Washington WA Wash.
West Virginia WV W.Va.
Wisconsin WI Wis.
Wyoming WY Wyo.

**APPENDIX 5: UPMC HOSPITALS**

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
(Use Children's Hospital or Children's on subsequent references.)

UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
(Use Magee on subsequent references.)
Note: There is no apostrophe in Womens.

UPMC Presbyterian
(Do not use Presby on subsequent references.)

Eye & Ear Institute †
(Use Eye & Ear on subsequent references.)

UPMC Montefiore
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic †
(Use WPIC on subsequent references, not Western Psych.)

UPMC Shadyside
(Do not use Shadyside on subsequent references.)

UPMC Altoona

UPMC Bedford

UPMC Chautauqua

UPMC Cole

UPMC East

UPMC Hamot

UPMC Horizon - Greenville

UPMC Horizon - Shenango

UPMC Jameson

UPMC Kane

UPMC McKeesport

UPMC Mercy

UPMC Northwest

UPMC Passavant

UPMC Pinnacle

UPMC Somerset

UPMC St. Margaret

UPMC Susquehanna

Use either the full name or the hospital on subsequent references.
† If an explanation is needed for how these hospitals are related to UPMC (because UPMC is not in their names), the appropriate phrasing is: a hospital of UPMC.

**OTHER HOSPITAL REFERENCES**
(not UPMC hospitals)

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System-University Drive
H. John Heinz III Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
(Do not use VA Hospital. Use VAPHS on subsequent references.)