



Submissions Guidelines

Ethika Politica

Ethika Politica promotes the understanding that timeless wisdom serves good decisions and that commitment to the truth begets virtuous action. We publish essays that express the insight that wisdom guides prudence (and prudence serves wisdom) and that prioritize the search for the common good above contemporary political and ideological positions.

Submissions: We welcome submissions. Writers should familiarize themselves with *Ethika Politica* before sending their submission. Essays for consideration should be sent via email, attached as a Word document, to submissions@ethikapolitika.org. Include with your submission (in the same document) a cover letter giving your thesis in two sentences or less, and briefly explaining why it's an important thesis to argue on this site, reference to any similar articles the site has published recently, and a short biography showing your authority to write on the subject. (Remember that authority need not be academic, but we do want writers to answer the skeptical reader's question, "Why should I read you on this?")

The subjects addressed and the ideas put forward can vary widely, as long as the essay clearly addresses a question raised by the understanding of wisdom guiding prudence. *Ethika Politica* has a point of view but not a line on most matters. We strive to be faithful to Catholic teaching but understand our work as helping Catholics discern how that teaching plays out in lived experience, the answers to which are often not obvious.

The editors will try to respond within three days but this is not guaranteed. If we accept your article, we'll tell you when you should receive the edited version for your review and the day we'll need your response. Writers agree to work with our editors in revising the articles, a process that may be more rigorous than you expect. Only when we have the final version will we schedule publication.

Queries: We accept queries, though we can't accept an essay based on the query, because sometimes well-presented queries don't turn into essays we can use. If we

encourage you, we will give you some direction and suggestions, but the most we can safely say is that we will probably publish it if you write the article you propose.

Style and level: *Ethika Politika* is published on the web. We try to balance the ability to develop an idea with the style the web requires. Assume a thoughtful reader, engaged with the site's concerns, who is also busy and not reading on the web to work through a complex argument. To put it another way, try to write at the level of writers like Ross Douthat, the late Christopher Hitchens, or Camile Paglia.

The typical essay should be an extended op-ed column: asserting one idea, insight, or claim, but with the time to work out the argument, offer evidence, and anticipate one or two major objections. This requires a more limited subject and development than many writers want, but remember that if the first article is successful you can treat the subject in a different way in another article. In writing the essay: make the idea and the reason readers should pursue it explicit in the first two or three paragraphs; stay rigorously on your subject; avoid jargon, insider phrases, and metaphors when working to articulate your main point; write in a personal voice and when appropriate personally; do not be afraid to be obvious (in using first, second, third, for example); and keep to the word limit (see below) as that is the best way to force yourself to decide exactly what you want to say and how.

Paragraphs should run from sixty to ninety words (a purely graphic criterion). Insert a subheading every six to eight paragraphs (also a purely graphic criterion), when it makes sense as the heading of a new section.

Word limits: The word limits, which should be adhered to strictly, are:

800 to 1,000 words for a normal essay
1,200 to 1,800 words for an in depth treatment.

Most articles that appear on the site will be the first and those should if possible be closer to 800 words than to 1,000. The longer, in depth articles will be more rarely published.

Titles: We welcome suggested titles, however we reserve the right to (and often do) write and publish our own titles.

Endnotes: We rarely publish endnotes, and usually do so only for scientific essays where the source of the data is crucial. References should only be included when needed and given as part of the text (for example, "In the *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle . . ." and "Writing on his blog on the *New York Times*' website, Ross Douthat argues . . .").

Hyperlinks: Although published on the web, *Ethika Politika*'s essays are intended to be traditional essays to be read straight through. Therefore hyperlinks are to be avoided. You may include hyperlinks in the article if they lead to a genuinely important article you implicitly commend to the reader. Links to sites offered as evidence or supplementary readings should be included in a section titled "Sources" or "Readings" after the article.

Simultaneous submissions: Given the demands on our editors, we cannot accept them.

Rights and Re-use: Writers retain the copyrights to their articles. We ask that they wait two weeks before publishing the article anywhere else and that the republication include: "[Title] is published with permission from *Ethika Politika*" with the link to this website.