

How To Write A Diagnostic Article

Why write?

- ✍️ **Develop leadership skill:** The ability to form, articulate, and distribute ideas is a critical key to success for an effective leader. Further, the medium of blog or short article writing is increasingly becoming a fundamental way of disseminating information quickly to a large audience in healthcare, and therefore a skill you should develop. Lastly, your experience gained writing for the Diagnostic will aid you in all other forms of writing and presentation.
- ✍️ **Résumé Booster:** Writing for the Diagnostic results in an online publication. This can enhance your résumé in a unique way that is not time-intensive and can be an interesting talking point in interviews.
- ✍️ **PEL credit:** Publication of a Diagnostic Article is worth 2 PEL credits. At the end of an academic year, completion of 6 PEL credits results in recognition of PEL completion in your Dean's Letter.
- ✍️ **Personal development:** Writing will facilitate learning about a topic, reflection, and opinion formation. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore a topic you are passionate about. Further, your thoughts will be effectively communicated to your peers, allowing you to share your passion with others.

What to write?

The Diagnostic seeks to publish short articles that are student commentaries and reflections. Brainstorm any events, experiences, or topics that are impactful or raise questions for you. Write about what you are passionate about, troubled by, or interested in. Write about a challenge you faced, something you learned (or wish you learned), or something that inspired you. You can write a reaction to current events in the news, describe an encounter you had on the wards, comment on medical education, or discuss any other topic you wish! Tailored ICM papers serve as great springboards for Diagnostic submissions! For article ideas, you can check out other [Diagnostic submissions](#). If stuck, one idea is to simply reflect on your day or week. Then pull threads out of that reflection and develop them into a more focused piece that fully explores a topic of your choice. Diagnostic editors will guide you in polishing the article once you submit a draft, allowing you the opportunity to develop writing skills.

Other guidelines

- ✍️ Most articles are about 1-2 pages in length, single-spaced. However, do not worry about the length. To start, simply say everything you wish about the topic.
- ✍️ Keep your audience in mind when writing! This article is for your fellow students. Your level of detail and explanations should correlate with what you personally would like to read. The tone of the article should be conversational, not academic.
- ✍️ Be creative! The Diagnostic is an opportunity for you to creatively share your ideas. Medical school, with its onslaught of facts and multiple-choice exams, is not always conducive to encouraging creativity. Use the Diagnostic as a creative outlet!
- ✍️ Email your article to Sara Edwards, the lead editor of the Diagnostic, at: sxe029@jefferson.edu. Then, you will work with one of PEL's experienced Diagnostic editors to refine the article. Once this is completed, your article will be published in the Diagnostic and will be promoted through a PEL-wide email! Send any questions to Sara directly or to our PEL email: physicianexecutiveleadership@gmail.com. We look forward to reading your article!