



Blog Author Guidelines

Purpose of the Blog

The general tone of blog posts on The Debrief is to invite members to share ideas, considered insights and reflections about topics that are of importance to the community. The purpose of the blog will be to raise awareness about issues relevant to the interpreting profession and members, prompt discussion and be thought provoking about hidden areas of the profession.

As a contributor to The Debrief, it is expected that both your article and your conduct in working with the editorial team are in keeping with the current ASLIA Code of Ethics. This includes but is not limited to the following core values:

1. Professional accountability:
Accepting responsibility for professional decisions and actions.
2. Professional competence:
Committing to provide quality professional service throughout one's practice.
3. Non-discrimination:
Approaching professional service with respect and cultural sensitivity.
4. Integrity in professional relationships:
Dealing honestly and fairly with participants and colleagues.
5. Integrity in business practices:
Dealing honestly and ethically in all business practices.

When preparing an article, authors are required to use appropriate pseudonyms to protect the identity of any individuals, groups or organisations. Any

information that services to identify a specific person or entity needs to be altered to protect their identity.

Authors are welcome to propose their own topic or select from a range of broad topics prepared by the editors. Writing about a topic you are passionate about is the easiest and most enjoyable option. Authors are asked to approach their chosen topic from a well-rounded perspective wherever possible. The purpose of the blog is not to rant, complain, derogate, defame or criticise individuals, groups or organisations. Rather, the purpose is to initiate open discussions about topics and issues that members experience in their profession; to provide insight that creates an opportunity for members to relate to perspectives that might differ from their own.

Language, Length and Expectations

Blog posts can be prepared in either English or Auslan, with a preference for the blog to be available in both languages.

Written articles need to be a minimum of 600 words up to a maximum of 1,200 words. Auslan video articles need to be less than 15 minutes. Length depends on the author and the topic.

You will need to provide a professional image and a brief 1-2 sentence biography to be included at the start of your blog post. This brief bio should help provide the membership with a context for who you are and the content of the blog.

You will be advised of the date your article is expected to be released. A new blog will be released every month. To facilitate engagement with the blog as a whole and your article, you are required to log in and check at least twice during the first week of publication. If anyone has posted any comments in response to your blog, you are expected to reply to encourage members to engage with The Debrief. All comments, including your responses, will be moderated by the editorial team. Members will need to log in to access and comment on the blog so all comments will be identifiable. Any comments that contradict ASLIA Code of Ethics and social media policy will not be posted. The safety of members is the priority.

The co-editors will be available to answer any questions and offer any support or feedback that you require.

Editing Process

Authors will have 4 weeks to prepare the initial draft of the article. We will check in to see if you are on track. Authors should be prepared for the draft to be edited by the editorial team. Track changes will be used to propose and explain edits. The purpose of this editing process is not to censor content but rather establish consistency in the writing style of the blog, ensure that a well-rounded or considered article is being posted and ensure identities are protected. Every effort will be made to maintain the integrity of your message. Track changes will be used to communicate the changes. Explanation for how to use track changes can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_knruAysnA .

Authors can accept or reject the edits however, where a final draft is received that is in breach of any of ASLIA policies, the article may not be published.

Tips for how to write a blog

We provide the following steps to support you in writing a blog style article.

1. **Write like you talk.** Use first person (e.g. I) using a conversational style.
2. **Show your personality.** Write about something you are passionate about.
3. **Start with a very specific working title.** Feel free to get creative
4. **Make your point again and again.** Create an outline, and use sub-headings. Jot down the important points you want to make and arrange them in the order you want to make them. Eliminate any ideas that are not directly related to these points
5. **Keep your paragraphs short and sweet.** Writing long paragraphs is going to bore your readers and they will leave to find easier reading. Each sentence should have one simple thought. Simple words work better than big ones.
6. **Back it up.** Where appropriate and possible, use data and research to back up the claims you make in your posts.
7. **Be Specific.** Get to the point. Say what you mean.

Possible Topics

Authors are welcome to generate their own topic however, a list of possible topics has been devised and includes the following

- Allyship
- Intersectionality (Gender, LGBTQ, Indigenous)
- Self-care (stress, burnout)
- Speciality settings (sports/ legal/ mental health/ academic/conference)
- Innovation (new ways of training; technology, VRI)
- Gatekeeping
- Community
- Training and education
- Events
- Reviews of resources, books, videos
- International experiences
- Personal growth and feedback
- Networking
- Deaf interpreters
- Reflective practice
- Rural and remote and international contexts
- Certification
- Research
- Ethics
- 'Day in the life of' – board member, volunteer
- Supervision/mentoring
- Educational interpreters
- Professional landscape (NDIS; social service vs. business; impacts of new policies and change)

More information about ASLIA Blog policy and procedure can be found on the ASLIA website.

Version History

Version Date	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by motion	Summary of updates
V1. 2018	Danielle Ferndale De Brown			
V2. 2020	Danielle Ferndale De Brown	Kirri Dangerfield Board Director Portfolio Holder		