

[AAJA Guide to Covering Asian America](#)

[Disability Language Style Guide](#)

Prepared by the National Center on Disability and Journalism

Covers recommended language with an emphasis on specificity.

Highlight:

Handicap/handicapped

Background: The [Oxford English dictionary](#) defines a handicap as “a condition that restricts a person’s ability to function physically, mentally or socially.”

NCDJ Recommendation: Do not describe a person as handicapped unless it is central to the story. Avoid using handicap and handicapped when describing a person. Instead, refer to the person’s specific condition. The terms are still widely used when citing laws, regulations, places or things, such as handicapped parking, although many prefer the term accessible parking.

Conforms to AP style

[The Diversity Style Guide](#)

Prepared by Rachele Kanigel, for the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism

Covers a variety of terminology; however, this style guide is sourced from a variety of other style guides, rather than in-house development.

Highlight:

gender-neutral pronouns

Some people don’t feel that traditional gender pronouns, such as she/her and he/him, reflect their gender identities. Transgender, genderqueer and other people who step outside the male-female gender paradigm often adopt new pronouns for themselves. If a person doesn’t identify as male or female, it’s best to ask which pronouns they prefer.

[Gawker.com Style Guide \(2007\)](#)

Prepared by Lockhart Steele, Chaire Sicha, and Gina Trapani for Gawker.com

Covers publication-specific information and grammar.

Highlight:

WORDS AND PHRASES THAT YOU MAY NEVER USE

A long list, sure, but it is topped by "interesting" and "funny" and "of interest." If it's funny or interesting, that'll prove itself, and it's actually not funny or interesting if you have to describe it as such. See also: "Arguably." (Fuck no.) This list also includes "lede" and "hed" and other sorts of made up journo-words. Gag. Finally, do not ever suggest in your writing that you do not care about something, or are bored by it, or that you do not know about something, or that you are above it. If you don't care, are bored, or are confused, or the like, don't write about it. Or fake it. Nothing is more off-putting for a reader than arriving at a post pre-bored and pre-disinterested. No apologies, no regrets.

[GLAAD Media Reference Guide](#)

Prepared by: GLAAD

Covers terminology for “reporting on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender lives, issues, and stories.” Note, portions of this guide is sourced from the AP and New York Times style guides, rather than in-house development.

Highlight:

Coming Out

A lifelong process of self-acceptance. People forge a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity first to themselves and then they may reveal it to others. Publicly sharing one's identity may or may not be part of coming out.

[NABJ Style Guide](#)

Prepared by members of the National Association of Black Journalists, including Jerry McCormick and Angela Dodson.

Covers “terms and language usage of special interest or relevance to our membership and our community.”

Highlight:

African, African American, black

Hyphenate when using African American as an adjective. Not all black people are African Americans (if they were born outside of the United States). Let a subject's preference determine which term to use. In a story in which race is relevant and there is no stated preference for an individual or individuals, use black because it is an accurate description of race. Be as specific as possible in honoring preferences, as in Haitian American, Jamaican American or (for a non-U.S. citizen living in the United States) Jamaican living in America. Do not use race in a police description unless the report is highly detailed and gives more than just the person's skin color. In news copy, aim to use black as an adjective, not a noun. Also, when describing a group, use black people instead of just blacks. In headlines, blacks, however, is acceptable.

[NIDA Media Guide](#)

[NLGJA Stylebook](#)

[A Progressive's Style Guide](#) (Direct link to PDF!)

Prepared by Hanna Thomas and Anna Hirsch for SumOfUs

Covers core terminology for progressive activists in order to combat discriminatory language.

Note, [Hanna Thomas wrote about her experiences creating the guide.](#)

Highlight:

Disability

Most times there is no need to refer to a person's disability, but when the need arises, choose acceptable terminology for the specific disability or use the term preferred by the individual.

[Race Reporting Guide](#)

[Religion Stylebook](#)

[Style Guide for NASA History Authors and Editors](#)

Prepared by Steve Garber for NASA History

Covers preferred language, units of measurement, and publication-specific information.

Highlight:

Manned Space Program vs. Human Space Program:

All references referring to the space program should be non-gender specific (e.g. human, piloted, un-piloted, robotic). The exception to the rule is when referring to the Manned Spacecraft Center, the predecessor to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, or any other official program name or title that included "manned" (e.g. Associate Administrator for Manned Spaceflight).

[Media Takes: On Aging](#)

[Style Guide: Reporting on Mental Health](#) (Direct link to PDF!)

Prepared by TEAM Up and the California Mental Health Services Authority

Covers preferred language and language to be avoided.

Highlight:

relevance

Do not assume that there is a link between an event that seems irrational and the mental health of someone in the story. Not preferred: "A man whose neighbors said he seemed depressed left his sprinklers on for days, leading to neighborhood flooding." Preferred: "Sprinklers that appeared to have been left on for more than 80 hours led to damage in three nearby houses, water officials said."

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- [Susan Robertson on creating style guides](#)
- [Anna Debenham on Snyk's Style Guide](#)