
Common Ground News Service Guide for Writers

The Common Ground News Service (CGNews) is an independent news source that disseminates fresh, solution-oriented articles to promote constructive perspectives and encourage dialogue. To date, CGNews articles have been republished over **30,000** times and have appeared in more than **3,000** media outlets around the world, including distributing partner McClatchy-Tribune Information Services, which partners with 450 global news outlets.

CGNews articles present constructive ideas and/or shed light on a variety of issues, including but not limited to:

- Muslims in the West
- the Arab-Israeli conflict
- social and political events in Muslim-majority countries
- interfaith dialogue
- civil society activism, especially women's activism

CGNews articles:

- Provide constructive, solution-oriented perspectives
- Promote dialogue, mutual understanding, empathy and cooperation
- Encourage peaceful and non-violent means to resolve conflict and ease tension
- Express constructive self-criticism
- Highlight positive experiences between communities and nations that humanise the other and offer hope
- Dispel myths and negative stereotypes
- Highlight organizations and people working for a better regional environment
- Build trust and mutual respect
- Present information and analyses in ways that encourage rational and positive thinking
- Model a form of journalism that is constructive, not antagonistic

Style & format guidelines for writing a CGNews article:

- **Have a point:** Have one major point. Make it strong and clear
- **Make it quick:** Make your point in the first or second paragraph
- **Back it up:** Use the rest of the article to make the case for your point, giving evidence, reasons, details, illustrations, anecdotes, quotes and facts
- **Be clear:** Good writing is clear thinking made visible
- **Be fair:** Even though op-eds are opinions, they should still strive for fairness. Try to give a reasonable explanation for the other point of view or allow for different interpretations
- **Be accurate:** Check all of your facts
- **Be original:** Present original thoughts and insights
- **Write in a journalistic, not an academic, style:** Use short paragraphs and common, conversational language
- **Keep it short:** Stay under 700 words