



منتدى الخليج الدولي Gulf International Forum

Gulf International Forum's Commentary Piece Guidelines

Gulf International Forum readers are well-informed individuals with a wide range of interests focused on the Gulf region, which consists of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, Iraq, Iran, and Yemen. Our readers want to be provoked by smart, fresh takes on the world and by rigorous analysis presented in clear, accessible prose. The ideal article strikes a balance by engaging and informing a general interest reader but also provokes debate among specialists.

The subject matter should be topical and/or timely addressing social, political, or economic aspects of the Gulf region: please see our eight research themes [here](#). Our readers are not necessarily specialists in Gulf affairs (though many are). Avoid wonky, technical language. We want to make big ideas accessible to the widest possible audience.

Commentary pieces are from 900 words to 1100 words. Writers should also pay close attention to the audience, the professional expectations and jargon of the targeted decision makers, and the structure and flow of the argument. Below are some general attributes that structure the analysis and argument for most commentary policy pieces. [Here](#) is a sample piece that consists of the components outlined below. All facts must be cited. Citations and references should be hyperlinked into the article like [this](#) when submitted to GIF. There is no need for a separate reference section.

Article Title: Should be Catchy and Telling of What to Expect from the Article

1. Introductory Paragraphs - *Two to three Paragraphs*

- Define the problem or issue. Highlight the urgency and frame it within relevant events.
- Try to grab readers right away with your first sentence; make them want to read more. Start with an interesting story or example that encapsulates your point.
- State your main argument clearly.
- You should be able to distill your argument in one salient point within a sentence. This should be a catchy, “tweetable” phrase.

2. Supporting Paragraphs – *From Two to Five Paragraphs Each Subsection*

*****Analysis Subtitle(s) Here: Should be catchy and telling of what to expect from the next section (can have two/three subtitles subsections depending on length/substance) *****

- Now that you've stated your argument and grabbed readers' attention, build on your lead with facts, statistics, and anecdotes.



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- Each paragraph should start with a sub-argument followed by evidence for that argument.
- Analyze—do not merely present—the information. Show how you arrived at the findings or recommendations through analysis of qualitative or quantitative information. Draw careful conclusions that make sense of the information and do not misrepresent it.

3. Concluding Section – Two to three Paragraphs

Final Subtitle: Should be catchy and telling of what to expect in the conclusion

- You should be able to distill your most salient point into one sentence. This should be a catchy, “tweetable” phrase. Make the final sentence as compelling as the first one.
- Summarize your findings or state recommendations. Provide specific recommendations or findings in response to specific problems and avoid generalizations.\
- If you are producing recommendations, analyze the options and tradeoffs and assess their feasibility. What are the pros and cons? What is feasible? What are the predictable outcomes?
- Address—and when appropriate rebut—counterarguments, caveats, alternative interpretations, and reservations to your findings or recommendations.

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