



Gulf International Forum's Commentary Guidelines

Gulf International Forum's readership consists of informed individuals with a wide range of interests regarding the Gulf region, which consists of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, Iraq, Iran, and Yemen. Our readers seek smart, fresh takes and by rigorous analysis presented in clear, accessible prose. An ideal *Gulf International Forum* commentary is engaging and informing for general interest readers while provoking debate among specialists.

The subject matter should be topical and timely, and the commentary should address social, political, or economic aspects of the Gulf region. For more information, please see our eight research themes [here](#).

Commentary pieces range from 900 to 1,200 words. Writers should consider their target audience, including the professional expectations and lexicon of the readers they wish to engage. Facts and statistics that are not widely known must be cited. Citations and references should be hyperlinked into the commentary, and there is no need for a separate reference section. When transitioning between large ideas, subsection headings may be used. Find a sample commentary that possesses all of these qualities [here](#).

Title: Catchy and enticing. Should tell the reader what to expect.

Tagline: A witty line that adds context or attracts the reader to the commentary's body paragraphs.

1. Introduction - Two to three paragraphs.
 - Define the problem or issue. Highlight the urgency and frame it within recent events.
 - Start with an interesting point, example, or story that demonstrates the salience of your commentary.
 - State your main argument clearly, and up front.



2. Body – Between two and five paragraphs per subsection
 - Build on a strong introduction through the distillation of the commentary’s argument in well-organized body paragraphs.
 - Substantiate any claims with facts, statistics, and quotes from reputable sources.
 - Each paragraph should start with a sentence that connects to the previous paragraph.
 - Present and analyze any information. Clearly articulate the logical steps that lead the reader should take to reach your findings or. Draw insightful conclusions that make sense of the information without misrepresenting it.
3. Concluding Section – One to three paragraphs
 - The concluding section subheading should describe what the reader may take away from the piece, not simply “conclusion.”
 - Summarize findings and clearly state any recommendations. Provide specific recommendations or findings in response to specific problems and avoid over-generalization.
 - Address—and when appropriate, rebut—counterarguments to the commentary’s claim.