Working Life—Submissions Guidelines

Working Life essays use personal stories to convey career-related messages that are relevant to a broad audience. Various formats can be effective, but the most common is a narrative personal essay—not a career chronology or an op-ed.

Working Life pieces typically have a strong story arc, punctuated with specific vivid anecdotes and personal reflection. The key is to identify an interesting personal experience, conflict, or challenge and to reflect on it so that a range of readers can relate and take away their own lessons. Because of the relatively short length—the last page of the magazine, approximately 700 words—it is best to focus on a single lesson or theme. If you're struggling to tell your story in that length, the first draft may be up to 1000 words, but keep in mind that the final draft will be limited to one page.

The writing should be polished but conversational, not formal or technical. Working Life pieces do not include references, citations, links, or an abstract. For examples of effective formats and styles, read past Working Life pieces at **scim.ag/2QDwTF7**.

Do not use generative AI for writing or editing your story. This includes the use of AI proofreading tools. We will reject submissions we suspect of being written by AI. We want to hear your story in your own words, and do not expect it to be fully polished at the point of submission. If your piece is selected for potential publication we will engage in a collaborative editing process to improve and develop the language and narrative as needed.

You may submit a fully drafted story (in an editable format—for example, a Word document, not a PDF), topic idea, or proposal via email to **SciCareerEditor@aaas.org** at any point. **In your email, please indicate that you have read our AI policy and have not used generative AI in your submission.**

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