

UCAR Style Guide

The **NCAR|UCAR Communications Style Guide** for writing and editing outreach materials was developed by **NCAR|UCAR Communications** for use in our own digital and print publications. It reflects style decisions made over the course of many years, with updates added as needed. Other staff are not compelled to follow it, but the style guide may prove useful to anyone in NCAR or UCAR for advice on style matters.

Primary & Secondary References

In 2016 we adopted the **AP Stylebook**, the preferred style for the news media, as our primary reference for all **AtmosNews** articles. The only exception we are aware of is that we use the **serial comma** (aka the Oxford comma) — because we find it helps clarify distinctions in science writing that might otherwise be muddled. Unlike grammar, in style there is typically no right or wrong — the sole goal is to be consistent throughout a publication.

Our prior reference was the *Chicago Manual of Style*, and many parts of this wiki have not yet been updated to reflect the switch to AP. **When in doubt, follow AP Style.**

Our secondary reference is the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*.

Cases not found in either or exceptions to their recommendations are recorded in the NCAR|UCAR Style Guide. When a meteorological term does not appear in *American Heritage*, we refer to the American Meteorological Society's *Glossary of Meteorology*.

Journal Style Guides

Many professional journals have a specific style not covered here. Please refer to the requirements of the journal to which you are making a submission. The NCAR Library provides links to several [style guides in the atmospheric and related sciences](#).

Related resources

- [Online Style Guides](#) (NCAR Library)

Glossaries

- [Acronym List](#) (NCAR Library)
- [Glossary of Meteorological Terms in English & Russian](#) (NSIDC)
- [AMS Glossary of Meteorology](#) (American Meteorological Society)
- [AMS Short Glossary of Atmospheric Terms](#)
- [NOAA Short Glossary of Weather Terms](#)

Tools

- [NCAR|UCAR Slide Templates, Blurbs & Outreach Brochures](#)

Communicating Science

- [UCAR Communicating Science Program](#)
- [UCAR ESL: English as a Second Language](#)

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Need more help?

- For questions not addressed by this guide, contact [Zhenya Gallon](#) (Communications).

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