



Assignment #2: List Post (List Article)

A list article is a piece of non-fiction writing presented wholly or partly in the form of a list.

Adapted from:

www.submityourarticle.com/how-to-write-a-list-article-in-10-easy-steps/

List based articles (commonly referred to as “Listicles”) have become increasingly more popular in new forms of media. This is because list articles are **easy to read**, and key information can be obtained simply from reading the **headings**. Additionally, they can be **read in one sitting**, or can be bookmarked for quick reference later.

List articles are used to **educate** readers about a general topic, as well as to **convey the essential information** that will allow them to better understand the topic. This is especially helpful for readers who are new to the topic, or are searching for specific recommendations or advice on a topic they are already familiar with. Thus, the article should be **accessible** for readers with varying levels of background knowledge.

Much like the opinion post, the list article may include some bias, as it is written from the writer's individual point of view. However, in order to build credibility, the article should be supported by factual information & evidence when necessary. You want your reader to feel as though they can trust your information and use it accordingly.

Steps for Writing List Articles

1. Choose a Topic

As always, the topic of your article should be related to the overall topic of your website. Since you're providing a list of items, you can choose a broader topic (in comparison to your editorial/opinion post assignment which focused on a very specific issue). The idea is to choose an over-arching topic under which you can have a list of several elements that expand or break-down your overall topic. Your list article can fall into the following genres:

- **How-To** – provides an instructional guide
- **Ranking** – rates and/or reviews a series of items
- **Top Tips** – provides advice and personal insight
- **Facts** – addresses some frequently asked questions/misconceptions

2. Start Brainstorming

After you've decided what your article topic will be, brainstorm some possible list items that could fall under that topic. It is advised to come up with more items than you need, as you can edit this down to the most relevant choices later on. Don't worry about trying to write eloquent paragraphs now—this is your brainstorming session and you're just trying to decide what items will be in your list.

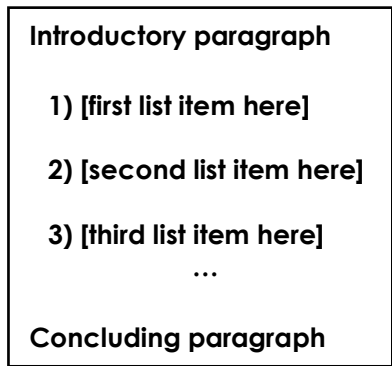
For example, if you're creating a **How-To** article, then list out all of the **steps**. If it is a **Ranking** article, then list out all the items you may wish to rank and discuss. etc.

Once you have brainstormed a series of relevant ideas, put these in **logical order from least to most important**. Your final list should have **5-10 items**.

3. Structuring Your List Article

A list article appears to be made up of a series of headings & short paragraphs. It still includes an **introduction**, **body** & **conclusion**, but is not in the rigid manner of an essay.

- **Title/Headline:**
 - Provides the number of items in your list
 - States the specific topic for your reader
 - *Eg. The 7 Most Overrated Musicians of 2019*
- **Introduction:**
 - **Hook**
 - **Relevant Background Information**
 - *Together the top artists of 2019 accumulated almost half a billion streams on Spotify. However, many of these artists are not considered to have staying power in the music industry.*
 - **Thesis Statement** – Briefly states the **purpose** of the list
 - *This list will outline which artists from the past year are considered overrated and suggest why you should expand your musical knowledge, and look beyond the mainstream.*
- **Body (5-10 Entries):**
 - Number & Heading for each list item (bolded or underlined)
 - Under each heading the item is explained in detail for its significance or relevance to the list
 - Each entry in the list should be clearly separated from the one previous
- **Conclusion:**
 - Restates the purpose of the article
 - Suggestions for further reading



***Tips to Remember When Writing Your Article

- Avoid using “I” – stick to third person
 - ~~*In my opinion, poor waste management will affect the ocean's health long term.*~~
 - *The issue of poor waste management will affect the ocean's health long term.*
- Keep it brief, but detailed (**approximately 700-800 words**)
 - Think about the length of an actual news piece.
 - Only include the most relevant information.
- Use numbers & statistics to help prove your argument.
 - Numbers help to bring the issue to life, and allow your reader to better contextualize (understand) your point of view.
In 2019, Lil Nas X's “Old Town Road” nabbed the most streamed song on Spotify with 8.7 million streams. (Rolling Stone, January 2020)
- Use quotations from experts
 - Sharing similar opinions from experts on your topic will help your opinion sound more credible; thus, readers are more likely to feel persuaded by your article.
Danny Kang, the talent manager behind Lil Nas X, recognizes that grabbing the attention of music fans can be tricky in the modern day when consumers have access to so many options on streaming platforms. So, it's more about saturating the market than artistry. He states, “[Lil Nas X] is very internet savvy — he understands how to play with the internet and manipulate it to create viral moments” (Rolling Stone, July 2019).

*****FINAL CHECKLIST**

My introduction includes:

- An interesting **hook** that grabs the reader's attention and introduces the general topic
- Background information on article topic (*who, what, where, when, why and/or how*)
- A clearly stated purpose for your list (**thesis**)

The body of my list article includes:

- 5-10 items in the list**
- Headings for each list item
- Specific reasoning/examples
- Clear topic sentences and transitions
- A quote from an expert
- A statistic (specific numbers – percentage, dollar amount, population, etc.)
- Correct citations (for outside quotes)

My conclusion includes:

- Restates purpose of your article
- At least three links for suggested further reading

My overall article includes:

- ~700-800 words**
- Concise language
- At least two relevant images or videos
- At least two relevant **#hashtags**
- List of sources for all referenced articles and images in proper MLA format