

Iowa Law Review Style Guide

Purpose

The purpose of this style guide is to provide editors and authors with guidelines on how to structure pieces to conform to *Iowa Law Review* conventions.

Application

The conventions described in this style guide should be applied *at all stages of the editorial process*. The conventions apply to both print and *ILR Online* pieces. Authors should be asked to approve all recommended changes before the PDF proof stage. At the PDF proof stage, editors should inform authors of major changes.

Authors may depart from conventions, but only for compelling reasons unique to the purpose and content of the piece. The Editor in Chief and Senior Managing Editor must be consulted. Authors should always have an opportunity to communicate why they wish to depart from these conventions.

General Substantive Conventions

1. Scholarly Discourse

The *Iowa Law Review* publishes scholarly works, including works that strongly disagree with the works of other scholars. However, disagreements should be limited to scholarly ideas and phrased in a manner conducive to scholarly discourse—gratuitous personal attacks on other authors are not suitable for publication by the *Iowa Law Review*.

General Formatting Conventions

1. Abstract

All pieces should limit abstracts to a single paragraph that occupies less than one page.

2. Formatting of Tables

Tables cannot contain footnotes. Tables containing footnotes cannot be placed on the *ILR* website.

3. Formulas

The use of mathematical formulas in above-the-line text should be limited to circumstances in which inclusion of the formula is essential to content of the piece. Formulas that convey mathematical or statistical background information should be limited to footnotes and, when possible, replaced with narrative description.

4. Use of Graphs, Figures, and Charts

Graphs, figures, and charts must be given a title by the author. Graphs, figures, and charts are not appropriate to convey simple ideas that can be more easily described via text. For instance, it is better to use text to describe a simple percentage than it is to include a pie chart.

5. Format of Graphs, Figures, and Charts

Authors are required to provide all graphs, figures, and charts in editable electronic format that can be manipulated in Microsoft Excel, Word, or PowerPoint. Graphs, figures, and charts

that cannot be edited may be deleted. All graphs, figures, and charts must be converted to grayscale by the author.

Substantive Conventions for Empirical Pieces

1. Coding

All empirical pieces, whether quantitative or qualitative, should contain discussion of how data was coded. The length of that discussion depends on the type of data and the analysis performed. However, readers should be able to follow an author's process of preparing raw data for analysis.

2. Limitations Section

All empirical pieces should include a section that discusses the limitations of the data collected and the analytical methods employed. Citation to relevant works from the social sciences is strongly encouraged.

3. Reproduction of Data

The *Iowa Law Review* does not reproduce datasets unless reproduction of the data is critical to readers' understanding of the piece. If authors wish to share data with readers, they should post it to a website and provide a link in a footnote.

4. Reporting of Quantitative Results

Pieces that contain analysis of quantitative data should include two sets of tables: (1) summary statistics table(s); and (2) results table(s). Summary statistics tables should provide a statistical overview of the data, such as the mean, median, and standard deviation of each variable. Results tables should report relevant statistics in a manner that a person skimming the piece could understand without reading the footnotes.

5. Variable Names in Quantitative Pieces

In quantitative pieces, results are often reported using a table containing relevant statistics for each variable. In these tables, variable names should be words or phrases understandable to a person skimming the piece. Variable names that require a reader to search the footnotes or above-the-line text are inappropriate. For instance, a variable containing data on respondents' gender should be labeled "Male" not "GEN_M".

6. Indication of Statistical Significance in Quantitative Pieces

In tables reporting results of quantitative analysis, statistical significance should be indicated using between one and four asterisks placed behind the relevant statistic. A key indicating the *p*-values associated with the various asterisks should be placed below the bottom line of the table, not in a footnote.

Substantive Conventions for *ILR Online Pieces*

1. Length of ILR Online Pieces

Responses published in the *Iowa Law Review Online* should be no longer than 7500 words.