



Journal Introduction

Editorial Mission

Paw Prints: The Michigan Tech University Journal of First-Year Writing is a student-run academic journal that provides an opportunity for first-year writing students to publish their work. The goal of *Paw Prints* is to publish and support student writers. *Paw Prints* focuses on creating a community where students can submit their work, collaborate with peers, and explore new ideas through scholarly writing. Submissions to the journal will go through an anonymized peer review process.

Editorial Board

Jamie Perlman Enterprise President, Paw Prints Team Lead
Rowan Kerns Paw Prints Lead Editor

Enterprise Members

Charles Driscoll
(Scientific and Technical Communication)

Jamie Perlman
(Scientific and Technical Communication)

Rowan Kerns
(Scientific and Technical Communication)

Brendan Philo
(Scientific and Technical Communication)

Max Meyer
(Scientific and Technical Communication)

Bella Wicker
(Cybersecurity)

Devin Palczewski
(English)

Sponsoring Institution

Paw Prints is published under the auspices of Michigan Technological University's Department of Humanities First-Year Writing Program and the Ink & Ore Publications Enterprise.

Communications

Paw Prints editorial staff can be reached at pawprints@mtu.edu.

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Editors' Introduction

The Michigan Tech University Journal of First Year Writing, also known as *Paw Prints*, is a student-run academic journal that features work created for UN 1015: College Writing, Reading, and Research. The journal is run by the Ink & Ore Enterprise, with help from the students enrolled in the course HU 3606: Editing. The journal serves as both a publication opportunity and a learning experience in the editing and publishing process. *Paw Prints* was founded with the initiative of producing a platform to highlight and recognize student writing. The goal was to recognize quality writing that was produced from the first-year writing course, UN 1015: College Writing, Reading, and Research. The journal highlights research writing from diverse genres that demonstrate the creativity and engagement of their work. *Paw Prints* aims to build a stronger and more visible writing culture on campus by encouraging students to take pride in their work, to see themselves as active voices in academic conversations, and to connect with a wider community through peer review and collaboration.

This year, we've graduated from a one-off issue to a full-fledged Enterprise team that is working on solidifying our processes and building our team. Forming an Enterprise has allowed us to establish roles within the organization and separate into distinct but collaborative teams, working not only on *Paw Prints* but also the literary magazine *Kupari* and Michigan Tech's student newspaper, *The Lode*. Becoming an official organization within Michigan Tech has also afforded us the privilege of working with the UN 1015: College Writing, Reading, and Research professors to integrate their writing curriculum with ours and with the HU 3606: Editing students to provide them with real papers to develop their editing skills. It also helps us to make sure this is a long-term, well-oiled project at Michigan Tech that will continue after our team is gone. Doing so has simplified our process tremendously; instead of hoping just for submissions, we hope for better and better work from our first-year class. Instead of reaching out to previous reviewers and editing everything in a scramble, we have a built-in team of reviewers and editors we can rely on.

Our second issue covers a wide range of topics that we believe fellow students will find interesting, timely, and thoughtful. Our journal reflects the variety of majors and interests to be explored on campus. Foresters and environmental engineers will enjoy Seth Tartamella's deep dive into the history of Common Buckthorn in "Ecological Effects and Management of Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus Cathartica*), a Michigan Invasive," while social science students will enjoy Coral Weidenbach's "Cost of Capital Punishment: The Enormous Evidence Against the Death Penalty." Readers who are interested in neuroscience or just an animal lover, Justin Lask's "Diving Deeper into the Ethics of the Containment of Orcas for Entertainment Purposes." Our fourth article, "Curious Obsession: an Inquiry of *Magic: The Gathering* and its Cultural Relevancy" takes its title and each of its headings from popular (and sometimes notorious) *Magic: The Gathering* cards (including "Closing Statement"!)." We find this to be a fantastic touch on a well-researched paper that was clearly written with passion and forethought and executed effectively.

Ella Karbowski's "A Return to Balance: Why Ayurveda Matters Now More Than Ever" is for people who want to explore medicine outside of traditional western standards. Karbowski emphasizes how healthcare is not "one-size fits all," and it interested us to learn about different treatment types for both physical and mental health. Dylan Walsh's "The Dangers of Androgenic Anabolic Steroids" provides a crucial resource for gym rats & aspiring looksmaxxers alike to make their gains while staying healthy and safe. Both students of computing and those who simply share J.J. Reams' fascination with technology will need to see the article "Are APUs the Future of Computing?" to be fully prepared for the next big leap in processing. Lucas Centner's article, "Scouting and its Impact on Youth", came to us highly recommended from our reviewers;

“The introduction to the paper does a good job of grabbing the reader’s attention, and the rest of the paper does well at keeping it,” and after reading it, we had to agree.

We’re incredibly proud of the articles we’ve selected to include. We initially feared that we might not receive enough submissions, or that we wouldn’t be able to represent a breadth of content as wide as we know our student body is capable of, but the moment we began reviewing our submissions, these fears disappeared; in reality, our biggest hurdle in the selection process has been picking which articles not to publish, given our limited budget and timeframe. We’re overjoyed to be able to bring some of the incredible writing of our first-year students to the attention of the reading community.

Please enjoy.

Paw Prints Editorial Team

Jamie Perlman
Rowan Kerns

Submission Guidelines

The guidelines that applicants were provided with when submitting their manuscripts are included here in full.

To prepare your article for submission, review the following guidelines. *Paw Prints: The Michigan Tech University Journal of First-Year Writing* is aimed at members of the campus community (including students, faculty, and staff) as well as readers from the Copper Country.

- You (the author) must be a first-year undergraduate student. In particular, articles prepared for first-year writing courses are prioritized, but all first-year writers are invited to submit.
- Your manuscript should be about any academic topic that you are interested in and/or passionate about.
- The recommended length of your manuscript is 3,000 words, or ten pages, including figures and tables if applicable.
- Include a minimum of 6 peer-reviewed sources in your reference list. Please contact the editorial board (pawprints@mtu.edu) if your subject is less-researched and are struggling to find enough sources of existing literature.
- Your manuscript should be well-written, readable, and understandable for a broad audience with no prior knowledge of your topic.
- Your manuscript should follow APA student paper guidelines.
- You will provide a short (≤ 200 words) writer's statement with an explanation of why you wrote the article, what department you belong to, and your contact information (MTU email and name) alongside your article.
- The use of generative AI is prohibited for drafting & revising. If you used AI for your research, you must cite any information, images, and text, according to APA guidelines for AI citations.

Additional details:

- Your manuscript should be in a Microsoft Word Document (.docx) format. Do not submit .pdf documents.
- Your manuscript must not include your name on the document. This is so that the review of your article can be unbiased.