



Author Instructions for Commentaries in *Family Medicine* (STFM)

Updated July 2026

According to the official *Family Medicine* author guidelines, **Special Articles and Commentaries are accepted only by invitation from the Editor**. This manuscript category is reserved for scholarly papers that are important to the discipline of family medicine but do not fit the journal's categories of Original Articles, Brief Reports, Narrative Essays, or Letters to the Editor.

Scope

Commentaries should:

- Address issues of broad importance to family medicine, primary care, medical education, workforce development, health policy, or related scholarly topics.
- Provide thoughtful analysis, interpretation, perspective, or discussion rather than report original research findings.
- Contribute to ongoing conversations that advance the discipline of family medicine and primary care.

Eligibility for Submission

- Submission of commentaries is **by invitation only from the editor/deputy editor**. Authors interested in proposing a commentary should generally contact the editorial office before preparing a manuscript.

Recommended Structure

Although the journal does not publish detailed formatting requirements specific to commentaries, authors should use a scholarly format that includes:

1. Title page
2. Brief abstract (if requested by the editor)
3. Introduction and statement of the issue
4. Analysis or discussion
5. Implications for family medicine, education, practice, or policy
6. Conclusion and call to action
7. References formatted according to AMA style, with hyperlinked doi numbers for all journal article references.

This structure is consistent with the journal's emphasis on scholarly contributions relevant to family medicine education and primary care.

General Manuscript Preparation

Authors should:

- Submit manuscripts through the journal’s online submission system using the “Original Article” option for “Type”. The editorial staff will change the submission type to “Commentary” after submission.
- Follow the journal’s policies regarding authorship, disclosures, and use of artificial intelligence tools.
- Use clear, concise scholarly writing appropriate for an audience of family medicine educators, clinicians, researchers, and policy leaders.
- Word count maximum: 1,200
- Reference maximum: 20
- Figures/Tables maximum: 2

Suggested Commentary Template

Title

Author name(s) and affiliation(s)

Abstract (if requested)

Introduction

- Define the issue.
- Explain its importance to family medicine.

Current Context

- Summarize the relevant evidence, policy, or trend.

Commentary/Analysis

- Present the authors’ perspective.
- Discuss implications, opportunities, and challenges.

Conclusion and Call to Action

- Provide actionable suggestions for educators, clinicians, researchers, organizations, or policymakers.
- Summarize key messages and future directions.