

# AMERICAN ATHEIST

A JOURNAL OF ATHEIST NEWS AND THOUGHT

## *Introduction*

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The *American Atheist* is a magazine dedicated to news and activism, in an effort to support the rights of non-religious people, and to strengthen the separation between church and state.

The magazine is a product of the nonprofit organization, American Atheists, and is published by the American Atheist Press in Cranford, New Jersey.

## *Editor's Note*

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*Dear Writer,*

*Thank you for your interest in submitting an article for the American Atheist.*

*Despite a few guidelines and formatting requirements, please allow your creativity and passion for this movement to flow through your words. Always keep in mind that our purpose is to entertain, inform, and inspire others to join the movement.*

*With that said, it is very important that you follow the instructions with great detail. Submissions that do not meet the requirements will not be used.*

*Thanks again, and I look forward to reviewing your material.*

*For reason,*



*David Smalley*  
Editor, American Atheist

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## *Submission Guidelines*

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- Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are incredibly important. Have someone else proof read your article before submitting. Understand which quotation marks to use, and exactly where they go in the sentence. We must meet all print deadlines, and if your material takes too long in editing, it will be rejected before going to print.
- Preferred articles will be the work of journalism, news reports, interviews, social experiments, book reviews, debates, and personal stories of struggle and activism. Strictly opinionated articles may be considered, but treated with low priority.
- Essays of fiction will not be considered.
- We strive to produce a magazine that will be respected in the public eye. Therefore, articles should be written in good taste, without self-glorification, defamation or slander.
- Know your audience. While many of the readers are currently members of the American Atheists organization, our goal is to reach out to other demographics of society and relate to them as well. Do not alienate specific populations. Strive to educate, entertain, and induce activism. You represent all Atheists with your material.
- While the articles will contain strong opinionated leans, preferred essays will contain material that is based on an actual event or news story. This doesn't always have to be the case, but we don't want a publication full of opinions only.
- Include pictures with your submission, which relate to the topic of the article. The pictures need to be very high quality, at least 300 dpi resolution. The more pictures, the better! Typically, pictures of the author will not be used. Exceptions apply for feature stories and topic reference.
- Keep most essays between 300-1500 words.
- You may submit more than one article for consideration in each edition.
- If you have an idea for a feature story, please contact the Editor directly.
  - For cover stories, be prepared to submit 4-5 high resolution photos, and at least 2000 words

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## *Article Ideas*

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- Search YouTube and news sources for people that have had a recent religious struggle.
- Take polls from the general public on basic religious questions, such as
  - What is an Atheist?
  - Name 4 Commandments.
  - What god does a Muslim worship?
  - What god does a Buddhist worship? (Yes, trick questions are usually the best)
- Find politicians that are nonbelievers and write a story on their success and struggles
- Search CNN, the Washington Post, and other news outlets for stories on religion and how that affects Atheists in America.
- Locate a city council that does not pray before meetings, and interview the leaders.
- You may also choose to contribute to magazine segments:
  - Religious Perspective - depicting typical theistic rhetoric & how to overcome it
  - Famous Atheists – a brief story on a mainstream celebrity that is Atheist
  - Recent Debates – provide a transcript from a recent religious debate
  - My Former Self – The religion you were once a part of, and why you changed
  - Scriptures Examined – Dissect religious verses from the Bible or the Qu’ran
  - Book Reviews – Choose a book from AAP and write a review on it
    - This will help boost the sales of American Atheist Press books

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## *Submission Requirements*

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Due to deadlines and editing time, the submission requirements are very strict and concise. Submissions that do not meet **all** of these requirements will be immediately returned to the author, and considered rejected until a follow up submission is received. Below the requirements, you will find a sample article, and step-by-step instructions for how to format your material.

- Microsoft Word format (.doc & .docx are accepted)
- Text should include article title, author name, and the essay, with no headers
- No lines (---, \_\_) or pictures should be in the text. Pictures must be attachments.
- Font: 11pt Times New Roman
- Single Spaced
- .25in First Line Hanging Indent
- Block Justification, no dashes at the end of lines
- No spaces between paragraphs
- Only one space after a period
- ‘God’ should not be used as a name, or capitalized unless quoting a believer. Instead, use “The Christian god,” “Yahweh,” “Allah,” (the name of the god you are referencing) or “gods” with a lowercase ‘g.’
- ‘Atheist’ should always be capitalized.
- In-text citations and bibliography are both required if sources are used
- Spell checked
- Grammar checked
- Proof read by at least one other person
- All attachments, including the Word document and all pictures associated with the article should be submitted in **one** email with multiple attachments.
- The Word document’s file name should include the last name of the author, and the number of words in the article in the exact format below. The email subject line should be the same as the name of the Word document.
  - Example file name: **Wilson\_864.doc**
  - This means the article was written by John Wilson, and contains 864 words. The subject line of the email would also be Wilson\_864.

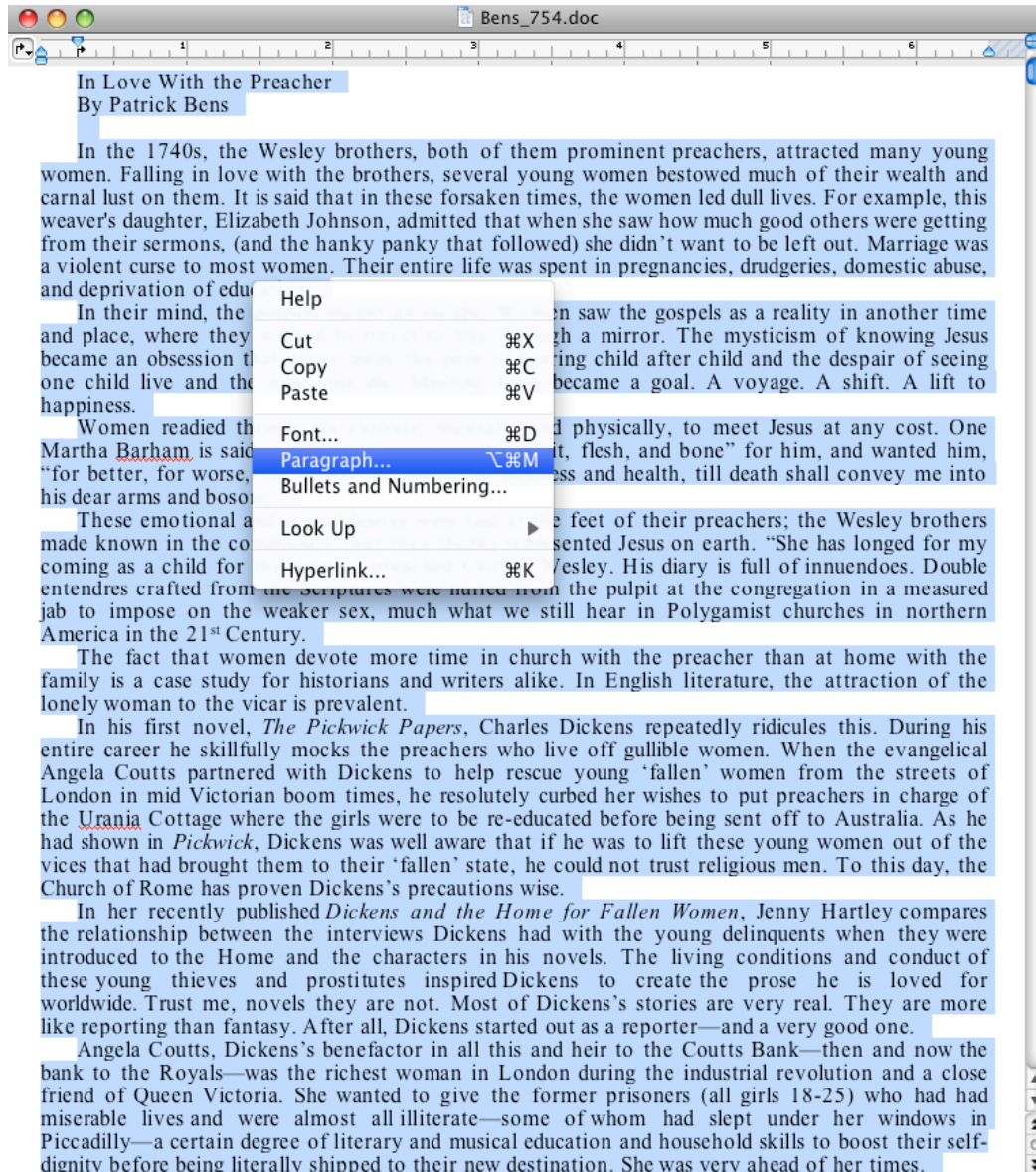
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## Step-by-Step Instructions: Formatting

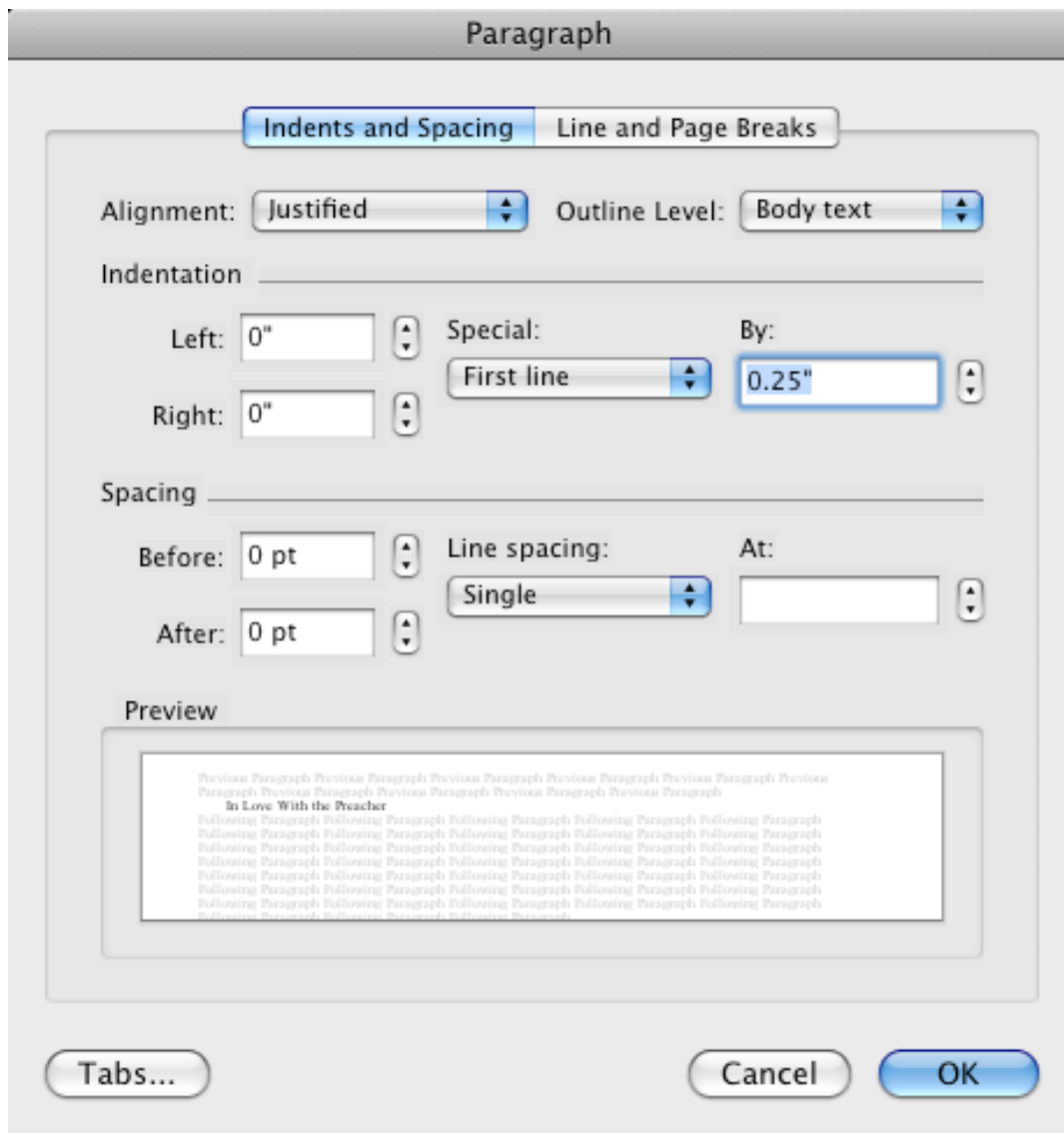
Once you have written the article, set the font, spell checked, grammar checked, and had someone else proofread it, you are nearly ready to submit! Just highlight all of the text.

- Right click, choose Paragraph



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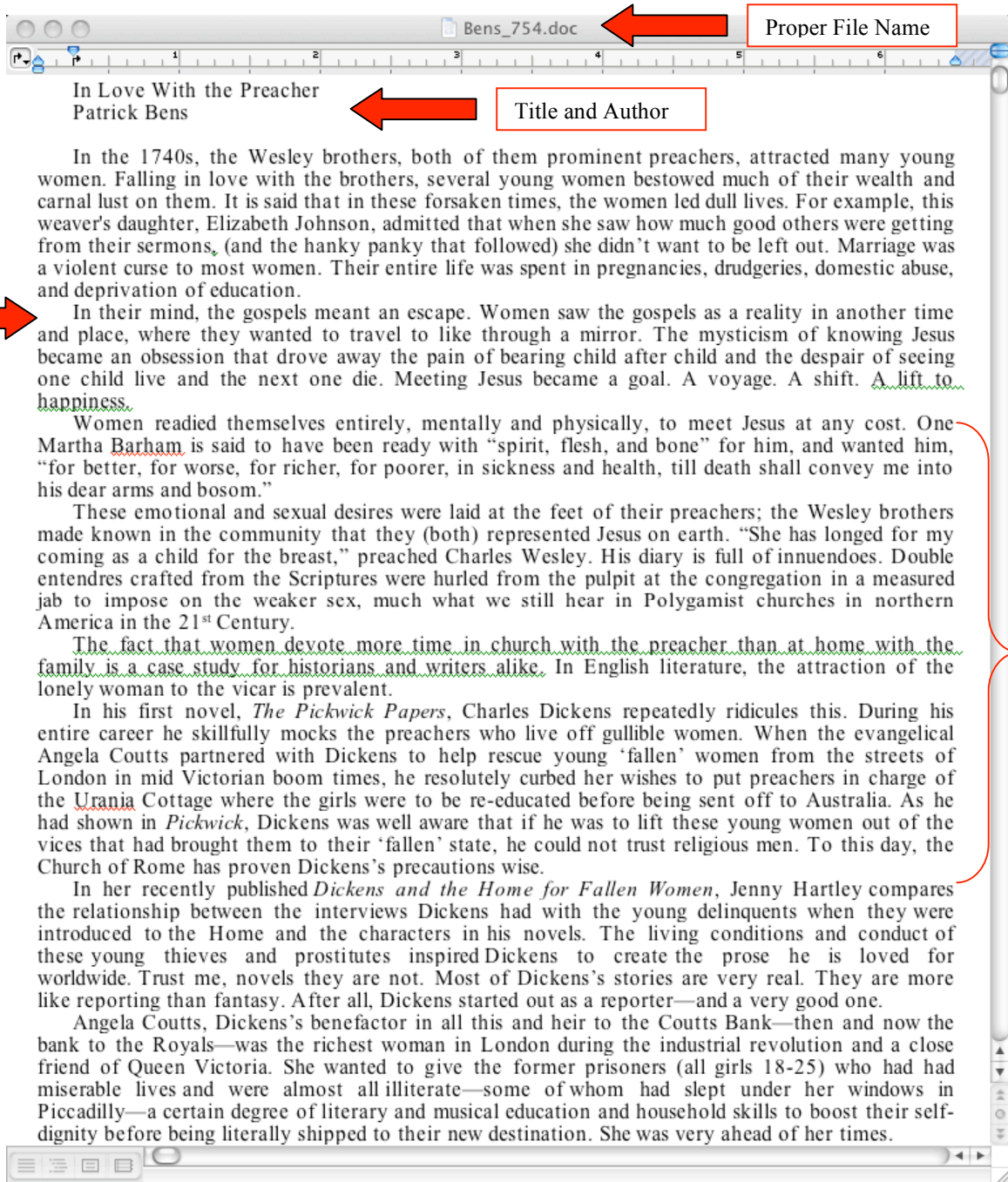
- Change the Alignment to **Justified**
- Change Special to **First Line**
- Change By: to **0.25"**
- Change Line Spacing to **Single**
- All blanks to the left should be at **0**

This will make the first line of each paragraph indent by a quarter of an inch, single space the text, and spread out the words so that they appear “blocked” on both sides. If you have an option for “Don’t add spaces between paragraphs,” check that box. There should not be spaces between your paragraphs.

The Word document should look exactly like this:

# AMERICAN ATHEIST

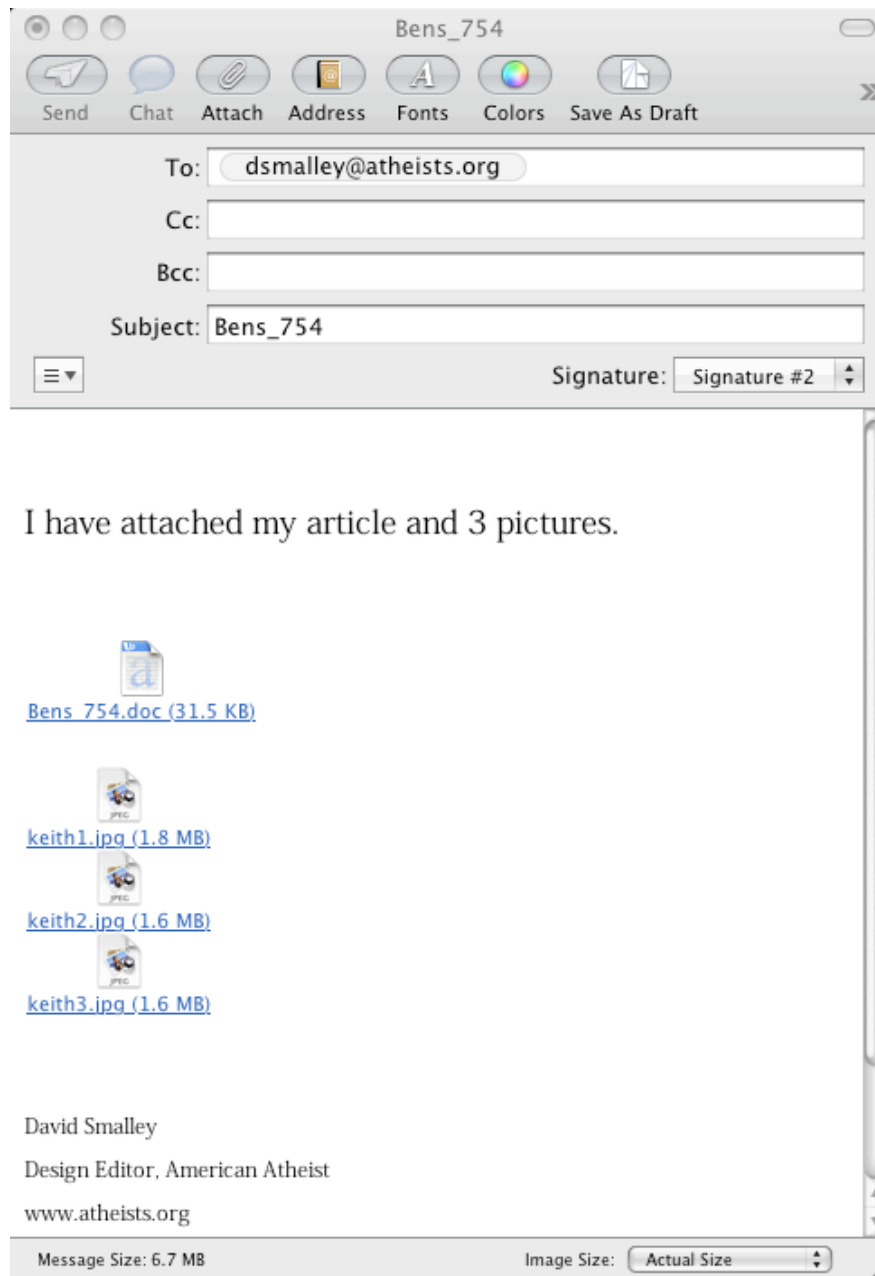
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The final step is sending your article and any photos that go along with it all in the same email, as below:

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Be sure the article is attached, and the subject line includes the name of the Word document. Also ensure that all pictures are included, and send.

You're done!