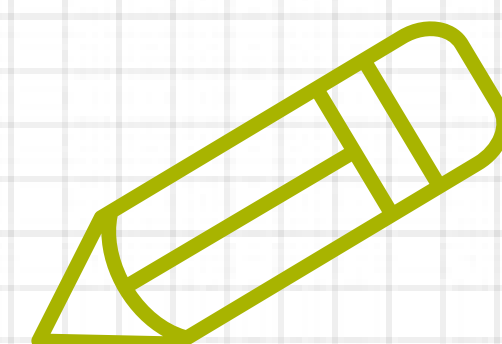




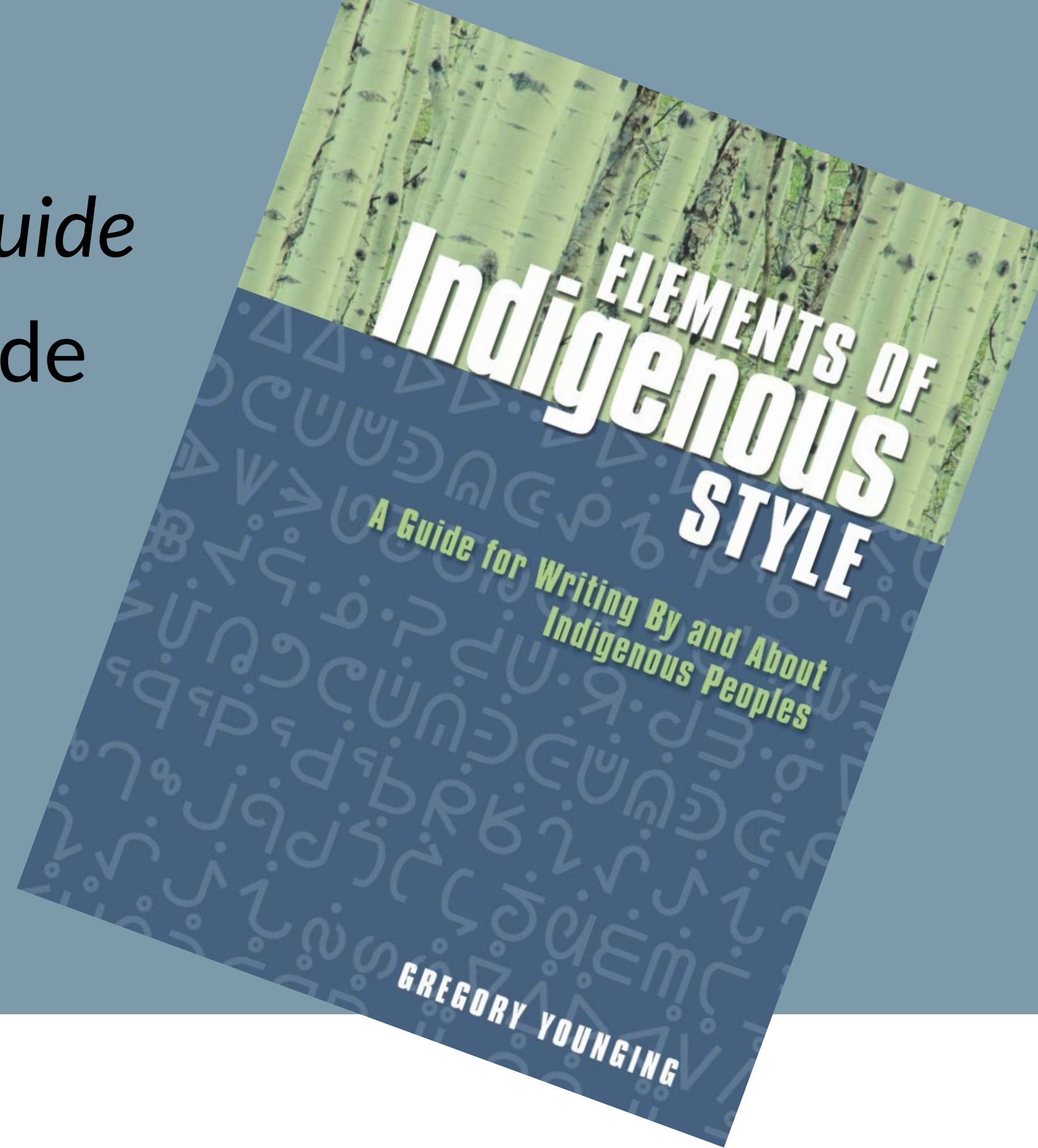
Photo credit: Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta

EDITING AND REVIEWING INDIGENOUS RESEARCH & WRITING



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Gregory Younging's *Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples* will provide you with a solid foundation on editing and peer-reviewing works by Indigenous scholars.



Highlights

01 | PLURALIZATION

Pluralize words to acknowledge the cultural, spiritual, and linguistic differences between hundreds of First Nations.

Although Indigenous Peoples in what is now known as Canada have some cultural similarities, there are many distinct Nations, all with their own histories, languages, cultures, and identities (Younging, 2018, p. 29).

By pluralizing certain words, we can avoid pan-Indigenous terminology, whereby Indigenous Peoples are clustered together as a monolithic group.

- EXAMPLES**
- Aboriginal
 - First Nations
 - First Peoples
 - Indigenous
 - Indigenous Voice
 - Longhouse
 - Medicine Man/Woman
 - Oral Tradition
 - Pottatch
 - Protocol
 - Sweat Lodge
 - Traditional Knowledge

03 | TERMINOLOGY

Use terminology that respects Indigenous Peoples, Histories, and Knowledges. Use terminology that Indigenous Peoples use themselves.

Inappropriate terminology stems from three main sources:

- Explorer and missionary language—terminology biased by the ideas of conquest of territory and conversion of Indigenous Peoples to Christianity.
- Anthropology/Archaeology—terminology that dehumanizes Indigenous Peoples and views them as remnants of the past.
- Kitch terminology—offensive terminology marked by vagueness, meaningless, and overt racism (Younging, 2018, p. 56).

TIP

Use the acute accent when spelling Métis (Younging, 2018, p. 68). Or, describe in a footnote why you are not using the accent

05 | POSSESSIVES

Use language that acknowledges Indigenous Peoples as sovereign Nations that predate colonial contact.

Avoid possessives such as "Our Indigenous Peoples," "Canada's Indigenous Peoples," or "Indigenous Peoples of Canada." Such terminology implies Indigenous Peoples are "owned" by Euro-colonial states (Younging, 2018, p. 89).

Instead, use terminology that asserts sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples.

- EXAMPLES**
- Indigenous Peoples have Traditional Territories
 - Indigenous Peoples tell Sacred Stories passed down through the Oral Tradition

02 | CAPITALIZATION

Capitalize words to show respect, resilience, and expression of identity.

Indigenous style uses capitals that might go against other conventional style guides (Younging, 2018, pp. 76-81).

Capitalize terms that relate to:

- Indigenous identities (i.e. Inuit/Inuk, Métis)
- Institutions (i.e. Chief, Elder, Clan/Clan System)
- Collective rights. (i.e. Treaty Right, Status Indian)

Capitalize other words to showcase respect (i.e. Creator, Land) and resilience (i.e. Residential School Survivor)

04 | NAMING

Be as specific as possible when referring to an Indigenous person.

Many Indigenous People, specifically First Nations and Métis, identify as being nations within a nation (Sterritt et al., 2017, p. 3).

You can show respect by identifying the specific First Nation an Indigenous scholar is affiliated with.

06 | TENSE

Don't relegate Indigenous Peoples to a time in history.

Indigenous Peoples exist today, as they have for millennia, as distinct cultures practicing distinct cultural traditions.

Always use the present tense, except when referring to specific historical events or when using a past tense quotation (Younging, 2018).

Other Helpful Resources

Citing Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers

University of Toronto Libguide <https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250519&p=5061883>

University of Lethbridge Libguide <https://library.ulethbridge.ca/c.php?g=256374&p=5064316>

Norquest College Libguide <https://libguides.norquest.ca/apa6/audiovisual#s-lib-ctab-72711>

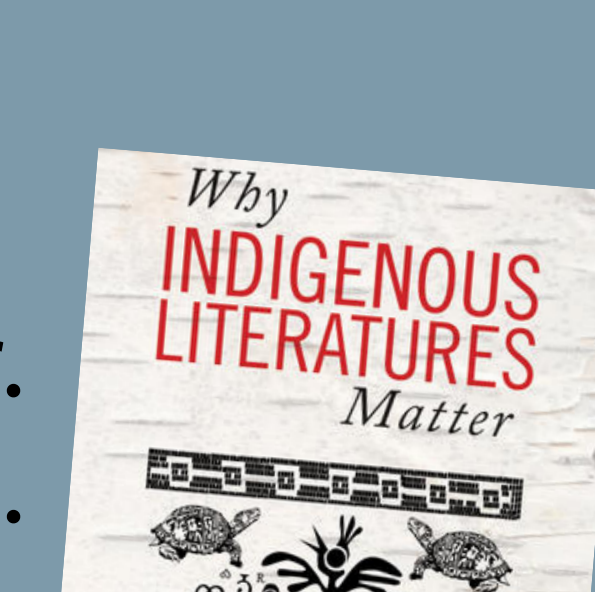
Writing, Editing, and Publishing Indigenous Stories

University of Alberta Libguide <https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/c.php?g=708820>

Justice, D. H. (2018). *Why Indigenous Literatures matter*. Wilfrid Laurier University Press.



Vowel, C. (2016). *Indigenous writes: A guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada*. HighWater Press.



Akiwenzie-Damm, K. (2016). "We think differently. We have a different understanding": Editing Indigenous texts as an Indigenous editor. In D. J. Irvine & S. Kamboureli (Eds.), *Editing as cultural practice in Canada* (pp. 29-40). Wilfrid Laurier University Press.



SOURCES

Younging, G. (2018). *Elements of Indigenous style: A guide for writing by and about Indigenous Peoples*. Brush Education.

Sterritt, A., Gaudry, A., Googoo, M., Michelin, O., Hunter, J., & McKiver, M. (2017). *Style guide for reporting on Indigenous Peoples*. Journalists for Human Rights.

<https://www.jhr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/JHR2017-Style-Book-Indigenous-People.pdf>

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