

# Alaska Stylebook 2023

## Introduction

Welcome to the comprehensive guide to writing about Alaska, the Last Frontier. Whether you're a seasoned author, a budding journalist, or simply someone with a passion for the written word, this book will equip you with the knowledge and tools you need to effectively capture the essence of Alaska in your writing.

Alaska, with its vast and untamed wilderness, rich history, and vibrant culture, presents a unique challenge to writers. This guide will help you navigate the intricacies of Alaskan style, ensuring that your writing is accurate, informative, and engaging. From understanding the basics of Alaskan place names and punctuation to incorporating Alaskan humor and wit into your writing, this book covers it all.

In addition to providing practical guidance on writing about Alaska, this book also delves into the broader context of Alaskan literature. You'll learn about the great Alaskan writers, classic works of Alaskan literature, and contemporary Alaskan authors. You'll also gain insights into the future of Alaskan literature and the role of technology in shaping its evolution.

Whether you're writing about Alaska's natural wonders, its people and communities, or its rich history and culture, this book will serve as an invaluable resource. With its comprehensive coverage and engaging writing style, this guide will inspire and inform writers of all levels, helping them to create compelling and authentic works that truly capture the spirit of Alaska.

In the chapters that follow, you'll find detailed guidance on a wide range of topics, including:

- The basics of Alaskan style, including punctuation, capitalization, and abbreviations

- Writing about Alaskan history and culture, with a focus on avoiding stereotypes and incorporating Indigenous perspectives
- Covering Alaskan news and current events, from politics and government to business and environmental issues
- Writing for Alaskan audiences, taking into account their unique characteristics and preferences
- Publishing and marketing your Alaskan writing, including finding a publisher, promoting your work on social media, and attending literary events

With this comprehensive guide in hand, you'll be well-equipped to write about Alaska with confidence and authority. So, grab your pen or laptop, and let's embark on a literary journey through the Last Frontier!

## Book Description

Immerse yourself in the world of Alaskan writing with this comprehensive guide, tailored to writers of all levels. Whether you're a seasoned author, a budding journalist, or simply someone with a passion for the written word, this book will equip you with the knowledge and tools you need to effectively capture the essence of Alaska in your writing.

Alaska, with its vast and untamed wilderness, rich history, and vibrant culture, presents a unique challenge to writers. This guide will help you navigate the intricacies of Alaskan style, ensuring that your writing is accurate, informative, and engaging. From understanding the basics of Alaskan place names and punctuation to incorporating Alaskan humor and wit into your writing, this book covers it all.

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This book is divided into ten chapters, each focusing on a different aspect of writing about Alaska. The chapters cover topics such as:

- The basics of Alaskan style, including punctuation, capitalization, and abbreviations

- Writing about Alaskan history and culture, with a focus on avoiding stereotypes and incorporating Indigenous perspectives
- Covering Alaskan news and current events, from politics and government to business and environmental issues
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# Chapter 1: The Basics of Alaskan Style

## Topic 1: Understanding Alaskan Place Names

Alaskan place names are a rich tapestry of history, culture, and geography. From the majestic peaks of Denali to the tranquil waters of Lake Iliamna, each name tells a story about the people and events that have shaped this vast and diverse state.

Understanding Alaskan place names can be a challenge for newcomers and visitors alike. Many names are derived from indigenous languages, while others reflect the influence of Russian, Spanish, and English explorers. Some names are descriptive, while others are more enigmatic.

To help navigate the complexities of Alaskan place names, it is important to have a basic understanding of the different types of names and their origins.

### **Indigenous Names:**

Many Alaskan place names have indigenous origins, reflecting the deep connection between the state's native peoples and the land. These names often describe physical features, such as mountains, rivers, and lakes, or they may refer to historical events or cultural practices. For example, the name "Denali" is derived from the Athabascan word for "the great one," while "Nome" comes from the Inupiaq word for "place to camp."

### **Russian Names:**

Alaska was once a Russian territory, and many place names reflect this heritage. These names often have descriptive or commemorative meanings. For example, the city of Sitka was named after the Tlingit word for "outside," while the Aleutian Islands were named after the Aleut people who inhabited them.

### **Spanish Names:**

Spanish explorers also left their mark on Alaska, particularly in the southeastern part of the state. Names like "Cordova" and "Valdez" are reminders of Spain's colonial ambitions in the region.

### **English Names:**

After the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867, many new place names were introduced. These names often reflected the American settlers' desire to establish a new home in the Last Frontier. For example, the city of Fairbanks was named after Charles W. Fairbanks, a prominent Indiana politician who served as vice president under Theodore Roosevelt.

Understanding Alaskan place names is not just a matter of academic interest. It is also a way to connect with the state's rich history and diverse cultures. By learning the stories behind the names, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the unique character of Alaska.

# Chapter 1: The Basics of Alaskan Style

## Topic 2: Punctuation and Capitalization in Alaskan Writing

Punctuation and capitalization are essential elements of written communication, and they play a crucial role in conveying meaning and clarity in writing. In Alaskan writing, there are certain conventions and preferences regarding punctuation and capitalization that are worth noting.

One notable aspect of Alaskan writing is the use of commas. Alaskans tend to use commas more frequently than writers in other parts of the United States. This is particularly true in lists and series, where commas are often used to separate each item, even if the items are connected by conjunctions like "and" or "or." For example, an Alaskan writer might write "I went to the store to buy milk, eggs, bread, and butter" instead of "I went to the store to buy milk, eggs, bread and butter."

Another convention in Alaskan writing is the use of capitalization. Alaskans tend to capitalize certain words and phrases that are not typically capitalized in other parts of the United States. For example, Alaskans often capitalize the names of state agencies, institutions, and organizations, even when they are not used as proper nouns. For instance, they might write "the University of Alaska Anchorage" or "the Alaska Department of Fish and Game" instead of "the university of alaska anchorage" or "the alaska department of fish and game."

In addition to these general conventions, there are also specific rules and guidelines for punctuation and capitalization in Alaskan writing. For instance, Alaskan writers should use a comma after the city and state in a mailing address, but not after the ZIP code. They should also use a comma after the salutation in a formal letter, but not after the closing.

By following these conventions and guidelines, Alaskan writers can ensure that their writing is clear, concise, and grammatically correct. This is especially important for writers who are producing content for public consumption, such as journalists, bloggers, and government officials.

Here are some additional tips for punctuation and capitalization in Alaskan writing:

- Use a comma to separate items in a list, even if the items are connected by "and" or "or."
- Capitalize the names of state agencies, institutions, and organizations, even when they are not used as proper nouns.
- Use a comma after the city and state in a mailing address, but not after the ZIP code.
- Use a comma after the salutation in a formal letter, but not after the closing.
- Capitalize the first word of a sentence, as well as the first word after a colon or semicolon.

- Capitalize proper nouns, including names of people, places, and things.
- Use quotation marks to enclose the titles of books, articles, and other works.
- Use italics to emphasize a word or phrase.

By following these tips, Alaskan writers can create clear, concise, and grammatically correct documents that will be easily understood by their readers.

# Chapter 1: The Basics of Alaskan Style

## Topic 3: Abbreviations and Acronyms Commonly Used in Alaska

Alaskan writing is replete with a diverse array of abbreviations and acronyms, reflecting the state's unique history, geography, and culture. Understanding and using these abbreviations correctly is essential for clear and effective communication in Alaska.

One common category of abbreviations in Alaska is related to government and politics. For example, the state legislature is often referred to as the "AK Leg." or simply "the Leg." Similarly, the governor of Alaska is frequently abbreviated as "AK Gov." or "the Gov." Other common abbreviations in this realm include:

- **ADFG:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- **ADOT:** Alaska Department of Transportation
- **DEC:** Department of Environmental Conservation

- **DNR:** Department of Natural Resources
- **DMV:** Division of Motor Vehicles

Another common type of abbreviation in Alaska is related to geography and place names. For instance, the city of Anchorage is often abbreviated as "ANC," while the city of Fairbanks is abbreviated as "FAI." Other common abbreviations in this category include:

- **AK:** Alaska
- **Ketch.:** Ketchikan
- **Juneau:** JNU
- **Nome:** NOM
- **Seward:** SWD

In addition to government and geography, abbreviations are also commonly used in Alaskan business and industry. For example, the oil and gas industry often uses abbreviations such as "LNG" for liquefied natural gas and "TAPS" for the Trans-Alaska

Pipeline System. Other common abbreviations in this realm include:

- **AANC:** Alaska Native Arts and Crafts
- **ANCSA:** Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- **APFC:** Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation
- **ASRC:** Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- **BP:** British Petroleum

Finally, abbreviations are also used in everyday Alaskan life. For example, Alaskans often refer to the famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race as simply "the Iditarod" or "the Race." Other common abbreviations in this category include:

- **AKST:** Alaska Standard Time
- **AKDT:** Alaska Daylight Time
- **ATV:** all-terrain vehicle
- **BBQ:** barbecue
- **BYOB:** bring your own bottle

This is just a small sampling of the many abbreviations and acronyms commonly used in Alaska. By familiarizing yourself with these abbreviations, you can better understand and communicate with Alaskans from all walks of life.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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