

This Is Anfield Writer's Help Guide



First, thanks for contributing to This Is Anfield. Second, thanks for taking the time to read this guide.

1. Avoid Large Blocks of Text

Reading online, and therefore writing for an online audience, is different to traditional publishing. Long paragraphs equal a large bulk of text, which is off-putting to the casual online reader.

Take a look at any large media website - BBC, Sky Sports, any newspaper – their “paragraphs” are no more than a couple of sentences, sometimes two. More than three sentences would look out of place.

Explained with advice [here](#).

2. Use Sub-Headings

This is the best way to split up an article online and draw attention to the areas of discussion. In effect, the sub-headings become your “paragraphs”.

3. Check (and double check) your facts

You are (mostly) writing for an informed audience – who will quickly lose interest if you get something wrong with a stat or fact.

4. Don't repeat the obvious

Everybody knows Luis Suarez was banned for 10 games, it doesn't need to be mentioned in an opinion piece over and over again. Eg “When Luis Suarez returned to action after a 10 match ban for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic” would be much better off as simply “When Suarez returned from suspension”.

Obviously, if it were a news report, the extra information would probably be used, but an opinion piece, by a Liverpool supporter, for a Liverpool supporter, you can assume your audience knows this already.

5. Stick to one topic

We often have a lot to say, but an article that tries to say too much loses its focus and thus it's main point. Try to stick to one subject / argument.

Perhaps, rather than a whole overview of the team/squad/Rodgers, stick to part of the team (defence) or one player, group of players (new signings, youth etc).

6. Text “Limit”

In all honesty, we tend to think anything over 900 words is lost online. Most points of view can be made within 900 words. If not, consider breaking the article into two different articles on the different topics

Useful websites / resources

For LFC stats, transfer fees etc, we use www.lfchistory.net.
<http://www.liverweb.org.uk/> is also excellent.

For match data from Opta etc, see:

<http://www.whoscored.com/Teams/26/>

<http://www.eplindex.com/>

<http://www.squawka.com/teams/liverpool/results>

<http://www.fourfourtwo.com/statszone> (iPhone app is better than web version)

If you use stats, perhaps link to where it came from so people know it's not just made up!