DIE FUNZEL

Funzel Guidelines   **Latest Update: 25th of Mai, 2020.**

1. How does our editorial team work?

Our editorial team is organised in a rather flexible manner. We do not have a fixed group that one needs to become a member of. Rather, there is a community of writers who know or may not know each other. People in this community write and discuss texts and ideas together or by themselves. Eventually, the final result will get published and shared on the Funzel platform, in print or online. Text can be written in German as well as in English.

Some college towns such as Munich or Freiburg have a set group of authors. They know each other and meet on a regular basis. Other writers live in other towns or countries and take part in the discussions from abroad. The community allows for certain people to have an assigned post, to develop their own project or to work with other people to realize new ideas. Thus, there are people that organise our Summer schools, people who work on our print editions, that are in charge of our website, our social media, that organize our release parties or that look over and edit submissions.

The texts produced by our community can be published either in our print editions or online. For these two options there are two different ways for the editing process to play out. A text that was published in the print edition can also be published online and texts published online can also be selected to be printed. When a text is being written or sent in, it should nonetheless be made clear if it is intended for our next print edition or for the blog.

The print editions are published biannually and have a pre-decided theme. Print editions have different sections. The names of these sections - "Lighthouse" / "Spotlights", etc - indicate

different genres such as columns, essays or literary prose. Each section is curated by an editor who edits and assesses the texts and selects those which fit well into the theme of the biannual edition.

Texts that are meant for the blog can be published any time. The online editing board tries to publish an article per week. Articles would often appear online first and get printed when the theme of the print-edition allows for it. Reversely, every print edition contains some articles which get exclusively showcased online before or after the print.

2. What are the criteria that our editors follow to assess and edit texts?

We at Funzel are confident that valuable philosophical thoughts can be expressed in a variety of ways. This is why we try to avoid restrictive criteria that would generate a lot of similar texts that differ only in content and bibliography. We understand the value of methodological pluralism and we publish all sorts of writing from dialogues, short prose, poetry and plays to the most rigid analytical essays and logically formalised arguments.

But adhering to methodological pluralism doesn't mean the absence of standards. At the core, we want the texts that we publish to be philosophically interesting. You may ask yourself, then, what makes up an *interesting* philosophical text? What is interesting in a text normally is the topic. On principle, however, any topic text can appeal basically to anyone. This is why we are not primarily looking at the *topic* when we assess submissions. Instead, we guide our writers by keeping in mind certain *formal criteria*:

a) Where is the point? We find texts to be interesting when they have a good philosophical point to make. A text without a point is a text without a soul. A good point can be either a simple argument or a simple statement. A point can also be a thought experiment, a fantasy or a metaphor in which a philosophical question is

raised. The philosophical 'point' can be buried underneath personal, political, mathematical or cultural observations or merely behind a hint. Also, there can be many points made. But the importance lies in making them recognizable to the reader.

b) Texts are written to be read. A text is written with a reader in mind, not the other way around. When a text is written without giving it the effort to become an enjoyable reading, it is usually not readable. When is a text worth the read? Probably when it has a point to make - see a).

c) Is the text understandable? It is pointless to read a text that cannot be understood. This is a tricky point considering that some texts are hard to read but they're still worthwhile reading. Sometimes the point(see a)!) lies in realizing that there is no point to be made after the text has been read. This is why we say that since philosophical thoughts are hard to understand, the texts that convey these thoughts *should not make them harder to understand than they already are*. A coherent text that speaks in clear language, that employs concepts in a uniform manner and avoids contradictions could be a start. Otherwise, the text might not even be readable - see b).

d) Does the whole thing make sense? Not everything that is incomprehensible can be qualified as nonsense. But if something is immediately recognizable as nonsense, then it is pointless to go through the trouble of trying to understand it. When do we recognize something as nonsensical? A text is usually nonsensical when the different parts do not hang together, or when a sentence doesn't follow from the preceding one. But a text that tries to establish a statement, clearly denotes other thinkers' thoughts, emphasizes own ideas and stays true to established facts is probably not nonsensical. Otherwise, the text would probably not even be understandable - see c).

Take these more as orientation rather than as quality standards. We are a student magazine, and we want to provide a platform for other students to share their work. We do not expect any flawless texts, especially not when it's only the start of your studies or you're still feeling insecure about your writing. On the other hand, we still want to have substantial philosophical debates, publish high-quality articles and interview compelling contemporary philosophers. This is why we expect our texts to rise to the occasion. But what we especially care about from a student perspective is that your texts are potentially accessible to anyone. This is why we try to avoid any impenetrable jargon.

We also want to highlight that since we are a student magazine, we do not subscribe to any determined political inclination. Indeed, philosophical perspectives have a social and political dimension and philosophy can and should have a political effect. Nevertheless, our platform does not subscribe to any political programmes. Our writers are free to have a defined stance on any subject that they decide to discuss, but it is important that any political statements remain separate from the factual claims. If a political opinion is to be developed in a text, it should be clearly outlined and reasoned for and shouldn't hide behind any oblique rhetoric. This conviction directly influences our editing process. When a submission is trying to make political commentary, we try to separate the political, philosophical and factual aspects of it as precisely possible.

3. What does the review and editing process look like?

Any submitted text will go through a peer review process. This isn't necessarily a double-blind-test since our editors sometimes know the writers personally, but on principle we try to go through any text at least twice: Firstly, the person in charge of the section will look at it. Secondly, the person in charge of the blog or the print edition has to approve it. Most of our section editors are chosen by the person who is in charge of the print publication, but the detailed responsibilities can depend on the theme of the text or the theme of the print

edition. Blog submissions will mostly be reviewed by whoever is assigned the task.

The formal focus of our editing process is unconstrained as to whether the text will be published on paper or online. We try to follow the aforementioned points a) to d) to guide ourselves and decide whether a text will be published or not. It is important to note that our print editions take the selection and harmonising of the overall body of the magazine into account.

Another important feature of the review process is our commitment not only to the improvement o*f* grammar and syntax, but also of the philosophical argument behind it. This means that our editors will make notes on the content of the text and question arguments or statements made.This is not to discard any uncommon view, instead we want to sharpen what is at the core of the text as much as possible in order to allow for a critical reading and discussion. Hereby we act in accordance with the *principle of charity*. We believe that a text should be taken seriously by taking its words straightforwardly, discussing it seriously and by challenging it. Our editors try to make use of this kind of critical reading to improve the texts read. The content editing is also meant to help any freshmen who are still unsure about their writing in order to come out with a readable and philosophically interesting text, since any content editing will start a philosophical discourse between the author and the editor, leading to a more eased way of writing. We believe that having the opportunity to read and discuss your philosophical texts with fellow students at the end of an intensive editing session is a success in itself and an important part of studying.

4. Who do the texts belong to? Is there a legal framework?

Every text remains at the disposal of the author. The same applies to images and their creators unless otherwise stated. Additionally, any text published in the print edition will be registered with the ISSN-number 2626-191X at the *Deutsche Nationalbibliothek*, Frankfurt a.M., Germany.

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The editorial office is legally represented by *Die Funzel e. V.*, a charity association registered at the local authorities in Munich. The personal opinions of the authors are not the stance of the association itself. Whoever publishes any articles for Funzel, be it in the online or print format, has the responsibility to deal with the consequences of it being published and any critiques themselves. Funzel also believes that the authors should be held responsible for any allegations of plagiarism and/or copyright infringement.

5. Are there any style or format requirements?

Our magazine publishes a range of genres, making it hard to give any specific requirements that would encompass all of them. We do, however, have some limitations for our submissions: No text should be longer than 3000 words. The title, footnotes and bibliography may be counted separately. We want the texts to have a font size 12 and a spacing of 1,5.

We need all footnotes and references for the printed editions with a bibliography to be formatted as Endnotes for our layout. The endnotes should make use of squared brackets. Here is an example of how it should look: 'A funzel article is properly referenced when it makes use of squared brackets! [1]

[1] Name of the Author (2020): Title, Munich, Funzel-Publishing house; p.33. (For the following

[2] Ibid., S. 35.)

The endnotes will appear at the end of the journal as a bibliography. The form of the endnote can vary according to the cited form of publication. Most of our endnotes make use of the Chicago or Turabian citation, but we do not impose any citation method as long as it follows a specific kind and makes correct use of it.

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Our online publishing does not have any layout limitations, meaning that the bibliographies and footnotes can be used separately. However, we prefer endnotes for clarity reasons.

Our texts are usually manually illustrated. We do not make use of continuous pictures in-text, unless the article is specifically designed to be a photo reportage or an artistic contribution.