apolitical

Apolitical article ideas

This is a list of article ideas that we would love to publish on Apolitical. If there is one of these topics that you would like to write about, please submit your pitch via the link here.

This list is not exhaustive — it's simply ideas to get you started if you no topics come to mind. This list is updated weekly with new ideas.

Updated: 07/02/2020

Overcoming imposter syndrome
According to one study, 7 out of 10 people will experience imposter syndrome at one or more times in their life. Imposter syndrome is the anxious feeling that we're in fact unqualified to do our job and that it's only a matter of time before the rest of the world will realise. We are looking for public servants who have experienced this, and who are willing to share their story, and to give tips for how others might break free from this destructive thought pattern.

Slack for public servants
In this article, we are looking for a public servant to write a list article of the top slack workspaces everyone in government should know (a companion piece to this article by UK civil servant, David Durant).

What's the deal with public innovation stickers?
If you have attended events like One Team Gov or UKGovcamp, you may have seen public servants who promote their ideas through an usual, analogue format — stickers. We're looking for someone to write an explainer-style article, exploring where this trend comes from and what the deal is. Some recent examples here:
- These tiger stickers from acting head of digital for at the National Leadership Centre, Sam Villis
- Stever Messer's "boring magic" stickers
- Self-professed "sticker purveyor", Matt Jukes

How to articles

The following suggestions are all based on feedback from Apolitical members, who have asked for 'how to' articles on the following topics:

- How to give better feedback
- How to use agile in policy teams
- How to use data in policymaking
- How to apply "systems thinking" as a public servant
- How to navigate bureaucracy
- How to be a better negotiator
- How to become a better presenter
- How to prepare your team for AI
- How to "mainstream" innovation
- How to thrive in an open office work space (This is something a lot of Apolitical members bring up as a pain point, and an article on the topic would be highly popular)
- How to stop procrastinating
- How to use user research in policy design
- How to attract younger generations to a career in the public service
- How to get back on track once collaboration and trust in a team has completely broken down

Topic: Leaderships

1) A case study from a leader (preferably middle-management or more junior) focused on how you successfully led a project, with a strong focus on how you went about **defining and setting their team's objectives**

2) A case study from a leader (preferably middle-management or more junior) on how you successfully led a project, with a strong focus on how you went about **communicating objectives to the team**

3) A case study from a leader (preferably middle-management or more junior) on how you successfully led a project, with a strong focus on how you went about **empowering and motivating your team to achieve the objectives**

4) A piece on the importance of effective leadership in the public service — the piece should inspire public servants to be better leaders by **demonstrating what leaders can achieve in government and what it means to be a good leader in the public service**

Topic: Behavioural insights

1) A case study about how as a public servant has worked with an expert organisation to design a behavioural insights intervention — the case study should highlight how you **collaborated during the experiment and implementation design phase**

2) A case study of a successful or well-designed behavioural insights project, focused on how you **interpreted experiment results and implemented interventions**

3) A case study of a successful or well-designed behavioural insights project, focused on how you **managed to get buy-in for the project**

Topic: Machine learning

1) A case study describing the **ethical challenges faced in a machine learning project** and how you've successfully overcome them

2) A case study of a successful or well-designed machine learning project, focused on how you went about **framing the problem and collecting/preparing the data**

3) A case study of a successful or well-designed machine learning project, focused on how you went about the process of **modelling**

4) A case study of a successful or well-designed machine learning project, focused on how you went about the processes of **testing, evaluation, iteration and deployment**

What are your best productivity hacks and tips?
How to be more productive at work is top of mind for many people, and there's never been more apps, gurus and workflow planning techniques that promise to help you become just that. But it can be difficult to navigate that jungle of productivity tips — we invite you to share your best tips and ideas that have worked for you with our readers.

Is the civil service code in need of an update?
Inspired by this conversation at UKGovcamp. We are looking for writers to argue both cases: if you think it should be updated, what would you include/change? If you don't think it should be updated, what would you say to critics that think it's outdated in some areas?

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Please submit your pitch via the link here.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or comments.