Why all the changes?
We felt that a more visual, scan-able "short" version of our comment policy was necessary
at the end of each article (see the full text below). We based that around four parts of our full
policy that we thought should be most emphasized. To better reflect those changes, we thought
a slight restructuring of the full policy would also be helpful. We've organized each numbered
point to match up to one of the four main points in our "short" policy and clarified points about
using first and last names as well as our new way of checking for fake users. The concepts
present in the original full comment policy are still here, as are the links; we just think it is more
visually appealing and easier to understand.
— Rachel Rice and Shaina Cavazos

Comments Policy

The Columbia Missourian welcomes your active participation on our website, and we encourage
you to interact with us and each other. Our aim is to create a space for open dialogue between
the many diverse voices of our community, and we hope that you will analyze, comment on and
challenge the content you find here.
By submitting a comment to one of the Missourian's publications, you are consenting to the
following terms of engagement:

1. **Don't use obscene, profane or vulgar language.**
   Curse words are prohibited, which means that any words, phrases or references that
   cannot be broadcast on daytime television, we will not allow in our comments section.
   All nudity or references to sexual acts will also be deleted. Links to obscene or vulgar
   material will be removed.

2. **Don't use language that discriminates based on race, religion, gender or ethnicity
   or makes personal attacks on fellow commenters.**
   A personal attack is a comment that insults another commenter personally; for instance,
   their intelligence, employment status, marital status, health, upbringing, etc. In order to
   encourage intelligent discussion and debate, we do not allow name-calling. You may
   disagree with another person's ideas or opinions, but you may not disparage them on a
   personal level.

3. **Use your real first and last name when registering on the website. It will be
   published with every comment. (**[Read why we ask for that here](#)**).**
   All Columbia Missourian publications are committed to a policy of transparency and
   openness. In that spirit, **your first and last name will be attached to each post you
   make.** You may note that this is consistent with our policy on using anonymous sources
   in our news stories: An anonymous source may only be used in the rare cases and only
   with the approval of a top editor. Comments are like letters to the editor in print; they're
   published and stay in the Missourian's digital archives. The Missourian does not remove
   them upon request. Similarly, we do not delete accounts upon request.

   You will be required to register with our site, with a valid e-mail address, in order to

comment.

    4. **Don't solicit or promote businesses.**
       Comments are to be used only for noncommercial purposes. You may not solicit funds or promote commercial entities.

If you're new to the Missourian's website, your first comment will need to be approved by newsroom staff before being published. That procedure is in place to prevent spam on the site. ([Read a column about why we do that, from our director of community outreach](#).)

We reserve the right, at our sole discretion, to remove a comment and also to revoke a user's privilege to post content on our site. Please be aware that we cannot and will not review every single comment posted on the site immediately. If you see a comment that you believe violates this user agreement, please let us know by clicking on the "Report a Problem" link. Posts will not be removed automatically, but we will investigate all reported problems.

Opinions expressed in comments are not necessarily those of the Columbia Missourian and its staff, and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of any posting.

Commenting guidelines to appear under every story:

Speak up and join the conversation! Make sure to follow the guidelines outlined below and [register with our site](#). You must be logged in to comment.

1. Don't use obscene, profane or vulgar language.
2. Use your real first and last name when registering on the website. It will be published with every comment. ([Read why we ask for that here](#)).
3. Don't solicit or promote businesses.
4. Don't use language that discriminates based on race, religion, gender or ethnicity or makes personal attacks on fellow commenters.

We are not able to monitor every comment that comes through. If you see something objectionable, please click the "Report comment" link. Our [full comment policy is here.](#)