

Gimo Games Style Guide

A resource for document formatting

Gimo Games
Kyle Rollins

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Introduction

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Gimo Games is a young company with relatively few employees. In the interest of uniformity in writing, this style guide was created. Even with only a handful of people contributing to publications within and without Gimo Games, there can be a large disparity in formatting, consistency, and accuracy. This style guide addresses the issues of formatting, inconsistency, and accuracy, and establishes the company voice.

It is important that any publications that may find their way out of Gimo Games have the same voice. This unity of voice will contribute to Gimo Games's image of a unified group of talented individuals who are striving to create quality products. Gimo Games wishes to present itself as professional and competent. This style guide will help employees achieve professionalism and competency in writing.

Gimo Games's publications and documents rely heavily on two sources: The Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition and Dictionary.com. This style guide follows many of the guidelines found in The Chicago Manual of Style and defers to Dictionary.com in matters of spelling and hyphenation. From this point on, The Chicago Manual of Style will be referred to as the CMS. If there is any dispute about the rules in this style guide, or a rule is not present, the reader is encouraged to research this style guide's sources.

Please note that revisions and additions of this style guide will be frequent. As new needs arise within Gimo Games, they will be addressed in new versions of the style guide.

On behalf of Gimo Games:

Kyle Rollins

Grammar and usage

1.1 Compound adjectives

Also known as compound modifiers, these are words joined by one or more hyphens that describe another word. Only use when describing another word; avoid putting in the hyphen when it appears as an adverb modifying something else.

>> The half-baked cookie did not taste very good to me.

1.2 Compound nouns

Compound Nouns: Sometimes a noun can work in a sentence as an adjective, and in so doing it describes another noun. Remember that just because some of these nouns end in ing does not mean that they are nouns acting as a state of being or a verb.

>> I read the morning paper on a daily basis.

1.3 Proper nouns

Proper nouns call specific attention to something, such as a title or a particular place of importance. No other nouns should be capitalized, unless the author intends to call special attention to them. Common nouns, by simple definition, are these simple nouns that do not require specific attention.

>> The monster jumped out from the closet, ready to scare the child in the bed.

1.4 Parallel structure

When writing a document, the author should adhere to traditional rules of grammar, following the CMS when they have any questions. This will lead to parallel structure within a document, meaning that style, organization, and other aspects of the document will remain the same consistently throughout its content. This serves to clear any confusion on the part of the reader.

>> Throughout their journey, the main characters traveled in many lands and fought much evil.

1.5 Dialect(s)

Because of the unique nature of the documents this company prepares, we recommend that they also adhere to the guidelines found in the CMS as to any dialects used. Otherwise, the readability of the documents will decrease and they won't be as clear. Also, following such guidelines may also preserve the dialects used while also cleaning them up somewhat.

Grammar and usage, continued...

1.6 Subject-verb agreement

When writing any document, the author must recognize that subject-verb agreement must continuously exist. It helps make the document simpler, and also serves to make it an easy reference for people in the company who want to go back and review its contents.

» The trains run on schedule (correct) vs. The trains runs on schedule (incorrect).

Punctuation

2.1 Semicolons

Semicolons separate independent clauses, and help clarify long sentences.

Semicolons should not be used more than once in a sentence, ideally, and only work when the phrases on either side can stand alone and make sense. Sometimes they are also used before conjunctions.

» Ex. I failed to turn up for the exam; yet my teacher allowed me another chance to take it.

2.2 Commas

Commas are used to break up run-on sentences, create lists, and make breaks within sentences. Do not use commas excessively, or place them in the improper places. Doing so will slow down and possibly confuse the reader. Always use the serial comma. The serial comma appears before the conjunction in a series of three or more items. The conjunction should join the last two items of the series.

» When walking in Oz, Dorothy was afraid of lions, tigers, and bears.

2.3 Hyphens, en dashes, and em dashes

Hyphens are used to create compound adjectives and to separate numbers, such as phone numbers or ISBNs. Additionally, if a word is spelled out letter by letter, use hyphens. However, do not use hyphens to indicate the word to in numbered lists or to indicate an abrupt break in thought. The first calls for an en dash and the second, an em dash.

» Hyphen: My phone number is not 801-731-0000.

» En Dash: I believe we need about 6 – 8 cups of flour.

» Em Dash: You really have done a good job—but you could have done better.

Punctuation, continued...

2.4 Apostrophes

Apostrophes indicate possessiveness or shorten words into contractions. Avoid slang uses of contractions, such as ain't, unless appropriate for dialogue. Also, in matters of possessiveness, always refer to the CMS if confused on how to form possessives. Generally speaking, however, plurals use the apostrophe after the s, and singulars use it before.

» My brother's apartment is in Salt Lake City.

Spelling

3.1 Commonly misspelled and confused words

Many words are commonly misspelled, but we have decided to include only the most commonly misspelled ones.

» **They're, their, and there.**

They're means they are, their is used possessively, and there indicates location.

» **You're and your.**

You're means you are and your indicates possessiveness.

» **It's and its.**

It's refers to it is and its shows possessiveness.

» **All ready, already.**

All ready refers to the degree of preparation and already refers to time.

» **Compliment, complement.**

Compliment refers to a pleasant remark about something and complement means to enhance.

» **Ensure, insure.**

Ensure means to make sure something happens and insure means to cover by insurance.

» **Principle, principal.**

A principle is an ethic or virtue and a principal is a type of administrator.

» **Strait, straight.**

A strait is a narrow body of water and straight can describe orientation.

» **Are, our.**

Are is a verb and our is a possessive pronoun.

Sentence structure

4.1 Dependent clause

A dependent clause is a group of words that doesn't stand alone by itself with a subject and a predicate. Without another set of words, it does not make sense alone. In the following example, "will feel tired" is a dependent clause.

>> I am staying up late, and will feel tired.

4.2 Independent clause

An independent clause is a group of words that can stand alone, having both a subject and a predicate. It does not require another set of words to make sense. In the following example, "I occasionally took breaks to maintain my steady pace" is an independent clause.

>> While typing my essay, I occasionally took breaks to maintain my steady pace.

4.3 Sentence fragment

A sentence fragment is a sentence that lacks a subject, a predicate, or both.

>> Games are fun for many reasons. Such as flashy explosions.

Names and terms

5.1 Place names

When talking of fictional places, the author must determine whether the particular place holds significance within the storyline. If it is a general, common sort of place, then no capitalization or other emphasis is needed. If it is an important place, such as a capital, then it should be capitalized. This applies to informational and storyline documents.

>> Atlantis, a pretend city within a game, must be capitalized because it is special.

5.2 Characters

Because video games generally refer to main characters as people, we recommend treating these as proper nouns. However, not all characters are main characters, and for more generic characters (such as fictitious creatures, perhaps) we would recommend treating them as common nouns.

>> Retah, a main character, requires capitalization.

Geographical terms

6.1 Real-world locations

Depending on the type of real world location, rules will vary. If the place is significant, such as a capital, it needs to be capitalized and, if the author wishes, otherwise emphasized. That is the only time any emphasis is needed with these places.

>> The author referred to Hong Kong, China in his document.

6.2 Game locations

To maintain consistent formatting throughout documents, we recommend that game locations be capitalized according to the same rules applied to real world locations, characters, etc. The documents will appear more aesthetically pleasing this way.

>> Hamunaptra is called the city of the dead, containing the wealth of Egypt.

Numbers

7.1 Dates

Since most documents will remain unpublished, dates will spell out the month and use a numeral for the day and year.

>> My birthday is July 26, 1989.

7.2 Large numbers

Numbers one through nine are spelled out. Numbers greater than nine use numerals. For large numbers, this rule still applies, except only whole numbers are spelled out. For example, a whole number such as two hundred thousand is spelled out completely. But 147,510 is not a whole number, and should not be spelled out. Even larger numbers spell out one through ninety-nine followed by million, billion, etc. If the first sequence of numbers is greater than ninety-nine, then numerals are used, such as : 220 million.

>> I have nine cats, and one billion dogs.

Document types

8.1 Naming documents

All documents should have a title that reflects their contents, including a parenthetical statement signifying the document's role (informational, mechanical, story, or planning).

>> Characters (informational) – 11/21/11

>> Monster names (mechanical) – 11/23/11

>> Quests (story) – 11/19/11

>> Task list (planning) – 11/15/11

Note: When documents are revised, update their titles with the date of the update.

8.2 Informational documents

These documents serve as knowledge repositories. Everyone should contribute to these documents so that we all benefit. Information contained in these documents can be about the game, but not contained within it.

8.3 Game mechanics documents

Mechanical documents detail how the various aspects of the game function. They can also indicate information that appears in the game itself. For example, the Bestiary and Monster moves documents.

8.4 Game story documents

There are three story documents: Quests, Plot, and Dialogue. Each has its own purpose, discussed in detail below. Everything related to the game's story and story telling is contained within the story documents - including how each part is incorporated into the game's mechanics.

8.5 Planning documents

The Task list and Art documents are the primary planning documents. Others exist, but aren't meant for long-term use. These documents coordinate our efforts so that we don't duplicate work and can track progress on the project.

Game mechanics documents

9.1 Bestiary

9.1a General


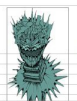
The Bestiary is a table with all of the Monsters in Monster Guru. Every Monster has different statistics, pictures, types, notes, and capture options. With so many details, this document can quickly become overwhelming if Gimo Games the employees stray from the established guidelines. No one should add anymore columns to the document, unless that person has received permission to do so.

When a new creature is added to the Bestiary, it is important to make sure that permission has been granted to do so. The stats for the Monsters in this document form the basis for gameplay in Monster Guru; because of this, it is imperative that Gimo Games employees refrain from changing the Monster statistics unless expressly asked to do so.

Text within the document should contain complete sentences and follow the rules of grammar laid out in this style guide, The Chicago Manual of Style, and Dictionary.com.

9.1b Formatting

The only columns that should appear in the bestiary are the following: Picture, Path File Name, Name, Type, hp, mp, atk, def, magatk, magdef, Speed, Capture Condition, Capture Notes, and Stats Notes. The columns should appear in the order presented. Notice that all column titles are capitalized except for the abbreviations, e.g. hp.

	Picture	Path File Name	Names	Type (blue, red, green, yellow)	hp	mp	atk	def	magatk	magdef	Speed	Captures	Capture Notes / reasoning	Stats Notes / reasoning
5														
6														
7														
8		creature001	Phyros Auriga Lyssa Mayal Aquil (piprote)	blue	50	25	15	15	15	15		I think this should be the beginning monster	not threatening plus kind of reminds me of midna from twilight princess	I think the beginning creature should be somewhat balanced
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														
16														
17														
18														
19														
20														
21														
22		creature002	Pao (Spanish for Turkey) (piprote) Bade Hoag Bade Greco (piprote)	blue (could be green)	40	15	25	10	15	10		make him feel intimidating (if you run from 3 the next battle, capture will be an option)	<-possible? if not could just use a lower level MonCu maybe multiple times idk just idess	atk heavy, def low, low mp since atk hit so hard
23														
24														
25														
26														

Column titles should be center justified and placed in the middle of the box. The goal is to bring the column titles as closely to the center of the box as possible. The titles should be colored a light gray and the background should be black. These colors highlight the column titles, making it easy to determine which stat the reader is looking at.

All text within the document should be twelve-point Times New Roman.

Document Type Guidelines

Game mechanics documents

9.2 Monster Moves

The Monster Moves table should be formatted so that every column is a different move type. The rows of the table should be the various Monster moves that fall under the column categories. Moves that are not yet assigned a type should be placed to the right of the table. For further formatting reference, refer to the image below.

[illegible]

While this table may seem cluttered with information at first, its purpose is to organize the different Monster moves in Monster Guru into a coherent and logical format. This table should be viewed as a reference source.

Story documents

10.1 Quests

Quests must be documented in a particular format. Each chapter is broken up by a heading with the title of the chapter. Within each of these chapters each quest is given a number, name, quests unlocked on completion, an English description of the quest, bullets for events required to finish, bullets for other awards given (items, creatures, etc.) or effects that happen (disable an event).

000 - [quest_name]

Unlock: (001)

Description of what happens in the quest.

- Required_event
- Award: [thing_to_award]
- Effect: [thing to happen]

Story documents, continued...

If a numbered list is used for the events, then those events must be done in order to finish the quest. Nothing more complicated than either an unordered list or ordered list can be done in the scope of our game (in order to do something more complicated, must work within the constraints of this system. For example: to do an either do this or that type mission, have quest a either quest b or c is completed it disables the other quest, and unlocks the quest unlock quest b and c, and when corresponding to the path desired in our scripting of quests).

003 (disables 002) – Monster Mash

Unlock: 004

- Defeat 10 Monsters close to Bunkum
(get: monies)

Dialogue:

Ramses: "Don't you listen to Coth. He always looks out for himself and doesn't care about others. Who cares about garbage, when feral Monsters are killing people!? For shame, I don't think that man has a conscience at all. Well, perhaps you are more kind-hearted. Could you help out Bunkum and fend off some of these Monsters?"

Complete:

Ramses: "Oh wonderful! You've killed enough of them that others will be nervous about coming around Bunkum again. Just a month ago we never saw any feral Monsters around here. I don't know what's become of this place, but thank you for your efforts."

Remember, it is imperative that if a quest disables another quest, then that information is prominently displayed in the quest title.

10.2 Plot

The storyline document should be formatted in a somewhat similar manner as the quests document. Each section of the document should have a title that tells the reader what the section deals with. There are two primary types of sections: scene and quest. Between these two types of sections, the storyline document lays out the progression of in-game events.

As depicted in the image below, scene sections should be titled in the following manner: Scene 000. The number is determined simply by chronological order. The title for a scene should be highlighted in orange for easy reference. Each scene section should have a short description followed by requirements for the scene, such as art, music, or SFX. Depending on the scene, there might be a description followed by requirements, then another description followed by requirements, and so on until the scene is complete. Requirements should be bold face and followed by a colon.

Story documents, continued...

Scene 001

Sen starts on the hill outside the tower in town style

art: A small area image with on a hill.

music: grassy knoll theme

There is a journal laying on the ground. You press it to add to your inventory, journal fades from scene

art: Journal icon

programming: Journal entry added notification

SFX: journal notification sound effect

Player opens journal menu to read final entry:

"The doctors told my mother that I'm getting worse...it scares me. What's wrong? They don't know.." - *could be changed to give less story at the beginning*

Player can exit grassy knoll to world map.

Quest sections are formatted in a different manner than scene sections. First and foremost, the section title is highlighted in green. The first item of information should be location, followed by a colon. Then come interaction and dialogue, also followed by a comma. Quest sections must have a completion requirement. After the completion requirement, a bulleted list of needs for quest development should follow. See the image below for reference.

Quest 001 - Shopping

Location: Forest Tower

Interaction: Mother

Dialogue: "Sen, would you mind running to the store and getting some vegetables for me, you remember how to get there right?"

Completion: Player must travel to Bone area on map, purchase vegetables

- **Writing:** Dialogue needed with store owner
- **Art:** vegetables icon needed
- **Dialogue:** "Sen's mother thanking her and giving her a reward"
- **Get:** Potion

Story documents, continued...

10.3 Dialogue

Dialogue found in the storyline and quests documents should follow common dialogue rules. In the case of a specific character's dialogue, state the character's name, followed by a colon. After the colon, insert the dialogue text, with quotation marks and the beginning and the end (punctuation at the end of a sentence is placed inside the quotation marks). Be sure to capitalize the first word after the colon. Refer to the image below for an example of dialogue.

If the dialogue is longer than one paragraph, then there is a special rule for quotation marks. Every paragraph of dialogue must begin with a quotation mark. However, the only ending quotation mark should be placed at the end of the final paragraph.

004 – Damsel in Distress

Unlock: 005

- Find Retah
(get:)

Dialogue:

Ramses: "I have a request, if you will. You see, my niece has gone missing. Well, she's really my step-mother's daughter's daughter, but I've always thought well of her. If you could find her it would really relieve me, not to mention her mother."

Daeden: "What are you doing here, and who are you?" ... "Hmm, I see. Ramses sent you out here. Well, Retah is a lieutenant in the Red Claws and I am Daeden, the Red Claws general. I was searching for her too. Say, the Red Claws are looking for new recruits. You should join us. I'm sure with your skill, you could help us find Retah. But first, I need to know if you can handle being a Red Claw."

Complete:

Ramses: "Gone, you say? Her guards slain? Oh, that's terrible! At least she wasn't among the dead. I do hope she's doing OK."

Planning documents

11.1 Task List

The task list indicates progress on the Monster Guru project. The table is divided into many different categories. Do not create or delete categories unless express permission has been given to do so. Each task is broken up into task parts. As task parts are completed, they should be highlighted green and the completion text (DONE) entered into the Expected Completion column.

Planning documents, continued...

If possible, keep track of the actual amount of time required to complete each task part. Record this information in the Actual Time column. The Expected Time column is measured in hours and tells the reader how long completion for a particular task part is likely to take. Refer to the example below for more information.

fx Task				
	A	B	C	D
1	Task	Task parts	Expected Time (hours)	Expected Completion
2	Set up all scenes			DONE
3		Create Battle Scene		DONE
4		Create Creature Info Scene		DONE
5		Create Quests Scene		DONE
6		Create Town Scene		DONE
7		Create Creature swap scene (battles)		DONE
8		Create Use Item scene (battles)		DONE
9		Make sure all scenes transition to each other properly		DONE
10		Line up all buttons on screen		DONE
11		Force all Scenes to be sideways		DONE
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19	Trigger Battles			
20		Make battles start after walking a certain distance		DONE
21		Make that distance traveled random		DONE
22		Toggle Push notification for when app is idle		DONE
23		- Get the push notification to work the desired frequency, only once, and when opened go to battle (not crash)	5	
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29	Battles			
30		Load up actual creature data for the battle	4	
31		Make it so creature attack list actually shows the creatures attacks	1	
32		Make the attack actually do damage to the enemy (use the stats and formulas) (change it in the database too)	8	
33		Detect when a creature dies	2	
34		On creature death either go to victory, loss, or creature selection screen	7	
35		Implement creature selection screen (similar to creature screen in main, but reduced functionality. Will probably use same scene).	8	
36		Implement item use screen ("").	8	
37		Correctly load run percentages for enemy, and have the run chance work correctly	1	
38		Implement the captureFunc parser, and check periodically during battle if those conditions are met	10	
39		Gain experience and items at end of level (pop up some kind of smaller menu that shows that, keep it simple)	8	

11.2 Art

The art in Monster Guru is a precious resource and the time of the artist is even more precious. As a result, the art table presents the various pieces of art that Monster Guru needs, so that the artist's time is spent on relevant work.

The image below illustrates part of the art document. The table should consist of three columns (Art, Description, and Dimensions), and as many rows as are necessary. Each new row represents a different piece of art. The art table is color coded to represent the current state of art pieces. Color coding should only be updated by the artist or unless express permission is given.

Document Type Guidelines

Planning documents, continued...

The key contained within the document lays out the meaning of the color coding. Yellow indicates that the art piece is still needed. Light blue indicates that the art piece is finished. Green shows that the art piece is in the game and ready to go. Red tells the reader that there is a problem, a question, or some unresolved issue that needs to be taken care of before the art piece can be used in Monster Guru.

Art (Needed/Specifications) ☆

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Help Last edit was made 39 days ago by munro.evan

fx Key			
	A	B	C
1		This document lists all the art we notice we need still in the game. Anyone can add to it, Evan can mark it as complete as he has those pieces finished. Everyone put any feedback they think of in here as we go.	This will be the "large" size for retina display. As these are given to me, I would like to also get the "half" version so that it can be for both retina and older devices. For the file names just put "AwesomeArt.png" and "AwesomeArt_half.png" together when you submit them.
2	Needed		
3	Finished		
4	In Game		
5	Problem/Question/Other		
6			
7	Art	Description	Dimensions
8	Loading Screen	Can be just a logo of Gimo Games surrounded by black. Talk with Chris for what he wants this to be. Can make it as awesome as you would like. I imagine something simple like the chrono looking one you did. Leave room for some buttons for Play, Options, whatever else we put.	960 X 640
9	Main Menu Screen	If you want buttons on the front UI, we need those. If you want just text in a font, don't worry about it.	960 X 640
10	Main Menu Buttons?		Whatever fits the above screen art.
11	Main Gameplay UI Frame	This will be next to the map during gameplay. It can be just around 80 pixels wide with some simple buttons to lead to other menus. We won't be able to have menus sliding on top of the map view, so the menu will have to stay open all the time for now. If we can minimize the menu, it would work.	80ish X 640
12	Main Gameplay UI Buttons	These we probably don't want to be just text on an awesome menu. This is the part that needs further design. We will need things like toggles for snapping the view of the screen, toggling the map overlay, toggling the vibrate on battle feature, menu buttons for opening up quests book (book of life probably), etc.	Whatever fits the above frame. (about 64 x 64)
13		This is the icon used all over the place. It needs a ton of different dimensions, so just make the largest and scale it down for the other ones. Make it square, and know that apple rounds the corners of it automatically (see http://developer.apple.com/library/ios/#documentation Apple also automatically adds that glossy curve to it, but if you have something cooler on their we can turn the glossy curve off that they add. The curved	