

You

Is it best to put the contents of sections in a Medium story/article or best to leave it out and let the reader navigate themselves?

Copilot

When writing a Medium story or article, including a table of contents (TOC) can enhance readability and guide readers through your content. Here are some considerations:

1. Benefits of Including a TOC:

- **Navigation:** A TOC helps readers quickly find specific sections, especially in longer articles.
- **Structure:** It provides an overview of your content's organization.
- **Engagement:** A well-structured TOC encourages readers to explore further.

2. When to Use a TOC:

- **Long Articles:** For lengthy pieces, a TOC is valuable to prevent readers from feeling overwhelmed.
- **Multiple Sections:** If your article has distinct sections (e.g., introduction, body, conclusion), a TOC is helpful.
- **Technical or In-Depth Content:** Complex topics benefit from clear navigation.

3. How to Create a TOC:

- **Manual Approach:** Add a TOC at the beginning of your article, listing section titles and linking to each section.
- **Medium's Automatic TOC:** Medium generates a TOC automatically if you use headers (H1, H2, etc.) consistently. Readers can click on section titles to jump directly to that part.

4. Best Practices:

- **Concise Titles:** Keep section titles brief and descriptive.
- **Order:** Arrange sections logically (e.g., introduction first, followed by body, and conclusion).
- **Formatting:** Use consistent styling for headers (e.g., font size, bold) to make them stand out.

Remember that a TOC is optional, but it can enhance the reader's experience. Consider your audience and the complexity of your content when deciding whether to include one. Happy writing! 😊