

Adonis

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1 Introduction

The best way to appreciate a good template is to force yourself to write with a bad template. This is the *Adonis* template. Its design stems from a personal experience. I was writing a manuscript that I had been planning for months, about a project that I had been developing for years, and on a subject I adored. And I dreaded every minute I spent drafting the manuscript. It took a while until I realized why: the template felt entirely off-putting.

The template should elevate the writing, not diminish it. In academia, however, form normally follows function. Sometimes it feels like publishers deliberately diminish the form in a vain attempt to elevate the function: the words, the science, and nothing else. Having a good writing environment matters. To design the *Adonis* template, I followed three principles:

- Simplicity, by which I mean several things. I mean that I wanted the tem-

plate to be simple for me to develop, lest it turn into an exercise in procrastination. I also mean that it should be easy for you, the writer, to use and adapt. Above all, I mean that it should be easy for your reader to consume.

- Readability, by which I mean readability throughout the writing process. The template should to make it easy to draft manuscripts, revise and read.
- Aesthetic, by which I mean elegant. Simple and readable \LaTeX templates abound, but when I looked, I found most to favour function over form.

The rest of this guide documents design considerations for the layout, typography and other elements.

2 Conclusion

I designed *Adonis* to be as simple to use as possible. The optional commands, for example, mean that you do not have to define everything at once; you can simply start writing. To make the template easier to use, *Adonis* also comes with a separate file, `quickstart.tex`, without text, commented-out commands and space to write.

I hope that you find this template to elevate both form and function, and that it proves it possible for the two to co-exist. If you find any issues in *Adonis*, or if you have suggestions to make it better, you can reach out to me at the email on the first page, or by opening an issue on the template's repository [1].

References

- [1] Adonis template. Nicholas Mamo (2023). <https://github.com/NicholasMamo/adonis-template>