

WRITING FOR COMMON DENOMINATOR

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Common Denominator is MAV's magazine. It is published four times per year and is sent to all MAV members and member schools in the first week of each Victorian school term. MAV has over 450 individual members, and nearly 900 school members. MAV provides membership benefits to a growing network of over 13,500 mathematics educators.

The purpose of *Common Denominator* is share the activities of the MAV and MAV members. To promote the association, its events and activities, resources and the value of the work MAV does in promoting mathematics in society. To share stories and ideas from mathematics educators that inspire and motivate other educators.

The content in *Common Denominator* is written by teachers, for teachers. The content is not written in an academic style. Ideally, we hope that teachers can pick up an edition of the magazine, read an article and think 'Great! I can do that with my students.'

MAV aims to have a range of articles in each edition that spans early years, primary, secondary, VCE and VCAL.

Submissions from teachers, academics, early childhood educators are encouraged. Writing for the magazine is terrific professional development, it helps to extend your networks and gets your thoughts and ideas out into the mathematics education world.

What's the process?

- Write an article (guidelines below)
- Email it to louise@stitchmarketing.com.au
- It will be reviewed and the editor will work with you in terms of feedback and shaping the article for publication.
- Don't worry about the article being word perfect. That's where the editor can help. You just need to have the ideas!
- If the article is accepted for publication, the editor will inform you which edition it will be published in.
- Once published, you will be sent a copy of the magazine so you can show all your friends and family 😊

Where can I see examples of *Common Denominator* articles?

<https://www.mav.vic.edu.au/Services-and-News/Common-Denominator-Magazine>

What could I write about?

You could write just about anything that centres on mathematics education. Write about a topic that interests you.

That could be:

- A lesson plan
- Something that worked well in your classroom
- Something that *didn't* work well in your classroom
- Overcoming misconceptions
- Hands-on investigations
- The way your school approaches mathematics teaching
- A book or resource review
- Applying a relevant current affair topic to the curriculum (i.e. the mathematics of COVID-19)
- Concepts in mathematics

If you have an idea, but are not sure if it would be suitable for an article, please email louise@stitchmarketing.com.au and suggest your idea.

Guidelines for contributions

Feature articles

- 700-1200 words
- articles must be submitted in a Word document (not PDF)
- keep references to a minimum (some articles have about 600 words of references and they take up too much space in the magazine, so by all means cite references but don't go too crazy!)
- most of our published articles don't have a formal academic feel. We prefer articles to be easily accessible to teachers and be in plain English.
- articles have a much better chance of publication if they come with supplied images (see note on images below).

To view examples of interesting feature articles, check out:

Metacognition:

<https://www.mav.vic.edu.au/Tenant/C0000019/00000001/downloads/Resources/Common%20Denominator/Common%20Denominator%20-%20January%202020.pdf>

The Art of Mathematics:

<https://www.mav.vic.edu.au/Tenant/C0000019/00000001/downloads/Resources/Common%20Denominator/Common%20Denominator%20-%20October%202019.pdf>

Investigating epidemics:

<https://www.mav.vic.edu.au/Tenant/C0000019/00000001/downloads/Resources/Common%20Denominator/Common%20Denominator%20-%20April%202020.pdf>

Book/resource reviews

The best book reviews are the ones where a teacher describes:

- what prompted them to use the book in class
- what they found useful about the book
- how the book was used as a catalyst for a class activity.

To view an example of a great book review, check out:

Sort it Out (page 14): <https://www.mav.vic.edu.au/files/common-denominator/January-2018.pdf>

Ten Apples On Top (page 7): <https://www.mav.vic.edu.au/files/common-denominator/July-2016.pdf>

Images

As mentioned above, articles that are supported by images have a greater chance of publication. *Common Denominator* prefers real-life photography rather than illustrations or cartoon type images.

The good news is, a smartphone takes a fairly good picture. When taking images, remember the following tips:

- Frame the images horizontally (ie landscape rather than portrait)
- The best pictures show students. For example, if you've written an article on the maths of a vegetable garden, the ideal image would be of students working on the investigation or building a vegetable garden.
- Try to be still when taking the picture (to avoid blurry images)
- Take a look at the background. Try to avoid mess in the background (ie coffee cups, lunchboxes, rubbish etc)
- When emailing images, do not compress them. Send as actual size.

Images should NOT be embedded into a Word document. They should be supplied as separate high res jpegs and be of good quality (300 dpi).

If an image identifies student/s, MAV will assume that the author of the article has obtained any necessary model release/permissions from the parents of the students. MAV will only use the image in conjunction with the article.

If I submit an article, does that mean it will be published?

Article submission does not guarantee publication. All articles need to adhere to MAV's publication policy which you can download from:

<https://www.mav.vic.edu.au/Services-and-News/Common-Denominator-Magazine>

I'd love to see my article in print....

If your article is accepted for publication, ensure that you supply your postal address. Once the magazine is printed, MAV will post you a copy.