Hyphenation Conventions Handout

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  | **Class:** |  | **Date:** |  |

**Common and Proper Uses of Hyphens:**

* Use a hyphen to join two words (particularly adjectives) into a single thought.
	+ The well-known document defining genocide was created in 1948.
* Use a hyphen when writing out a compound number.
	+ There are sixty-six different agencies dedicated to improving genocide prevention.
* Use a hyphen to promote clarity in writing and avoid unclear combinations of letters.
	+ “I re-sent a petition to my congresswoman about stopping genocide” instead of “I resent a petition to my congresswoman about stopping genocide.”
* Use a hyphen with certain prefixes such as: self-, all-, anti-, and mid-.
	+ Anti-war
	+ Self-sustaining
	+ All-seeing
	+ mid-1900s

**Further reference:** The Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> (search terms: *hyphen*, *hyphenation convention*).