

## Hyphenation Conventions Handout

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### 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*).