

Updates to Brookings’s writing style guide as of September 23, 2019:

Brookings uses the following terminologies in reference to racial/ethnic groups residing within the United States, corresponding to the census-based categories in parentheses.

Brookings publications capitalize **Black**, with flexibility to use **African American** (census-based racial category: *Black or African American*).^{1, 2}

Brookings publications use **white** (census-based racial category: *White*).^{1, 2}

Brookings publications use **Asian American** (census-based racial category: *Asian*).^{3, 4}

Brookings publications use **Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander** (census-based racial category: *Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander*). Brookings publications will strive to use “Hawaiian residents” to refer to people who live in Hawaii, while striving to use “Hawaiian” to refer to people of Hawaiian descent.⁵

Brookings publications use **American Indian**, or alternatively, **Native American** (census-based racial category: *American Indian or Alaska Native*).³

Brookings publications use **Latino or Hispanic** (census-based ethnic category: *Hispanic or Latino*).^{8, 9}

Additional writing style guide considerations:

- Brookings will continue to study and consider alternative terminologies, particularly those increasingly being deliberated by diverse groups, including *Latinx* in reference to the *Latino or Hispanic* community and *Indigenous* or *Indigenous Peoples* in reference to the *American Indian or Native American* community.
- Brookings’s writing style guide update also reinforces the preference to use race/ethnicities as adjectives, rather than plural nouns.³ For example: rather than using “blacks,” “whites,” etc., Brookings publications will strive to use adjective-based race/ethnicity terminology whenever possible, such as Black teachers, white students, Asian American homeowners, Latino or Hispanic college students, etc.
- Brookings publications will strive to use disaggregated categories/labeling whenever possible to minimize generalizations.^{3, 6, 7} For example, authors will note a person’s tribal affiliation or a specific Asian country of descent as much as possible.

¹ Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review*, volume 43 (6), 1241-1299. Retrieved from

https://www.jstor.org/stable/1229039?seq=4#metadata_info_tab_contents

² Touré (2011). *Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness? What It Means To Be Black Now*. New York, New York: Free Press.

³ Associated Press (2019). AP Stylebook, *race-related coverage*. Retrieved from

https://www.apstylebook.com/brookings/ap_stylebook/race-related-coverage

⁴ Fuhrmann, H. (2019). Drop the Hyphen in Asian American. *Conscious Style Guide*. Retrieved from

<https://consciousstyleguide.com/drop-hyphen-asian-american/>

⁵ White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (n.d.). *Fact Sheet: What You Should Know About Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders* [PDF]. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/list/asian-americans-initiative/what-you-should-know.pdf>

⁶ Ko Chin, K. (2016, October 12), Opinion: Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Need to Mobilize for Disaggregated Data. *NBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/opinion-asian-american-native-hawaiians-pacific-islanders-need-mobilize-disaggregated-n664366>

⁷ American Public Health Association (2000). Toward improved health: disaggregating Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander data. *American Journal of Public Health*, volume 90 (11), 1731-1734. Retrieved from <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.90.11.1731>

⁸ The Diversity Style Guide (2019). Glossary. *Hispanic*. Retrieved from <https://www.diversitystyleguide.com/glossary/hispanic/>

⁹ The Diversity Style Guide (2019). Glossary. *Latina/Latino*. Retrieved from <https://www.diversitystyleguide.com/glossary/latinalatino/>