

I'm not a robot

































I have a question about capitalization, specifically about when the word "state" can be or should be capitalized. If am talking about a state government (for example, Florida) and I am also talking about the concept of "the state" (i.e. the entity that has a monopoly on the legitimate use of force within a given territory), can I or should I capitalize "State" in the latter case in order to make the distinction? And if I can, or should, would I continue to use capital S "State" throughout my article, even when I don't need to make a distinction? Thanks for your help.Ch. I'm not sure how you would distinguish them other than by context. I would say the state of Florida and the state (when talking about the concept) as in "the separation of church and state". Proper nouns are capitalized, otherwise words are lower-cased, except when beginning a sentence. The simple word "state" is not a proper noun.The Associated Press Stylebook, used by nearly all U.S. newspapers and journalism schools, says to lowercase it. An exception might be where where the formal name of a state agency (note lower case) has the word "state" in its name. I seem to remember that the state of Indiana (note lower case) runs rampant with "state" in proper names, e.g. "State Department of Tourism."Regards from the state of Oregon, just south of Washington state. This is a tricky question.Based on a different context (I used to write about organisations that were trusts) ...If writing the name of the state and that includes the word state, then a capital State.If using the word state in reference to one particular state, without the full name, again, a capital State.If using the word state to refer to states in general or any state rather than one state in particular, then lower case state. Following this guidance, your article will have State and state, as appropriate.I see that I'm late posting this - but I think I'm agreeing with sdgraham and JamesM. And then there's the United States of America, I believe. Funny, but I would have given State versus Church both capitals. Thanks for the help everyone. I think I will go with James M's suggestion and add the name of the state. And a special shout out to sdgraham - I'm from the state of Oregon myself.Ch. When using "the state of", you really need to be careful. All American states have official and unofficial state names. The official state name should be capitalized as you would any title. Most of them are "State of " + , but there are some exceptions. ExamplesCommon name: New York or New York StateOfficial name: State of New YorkCommon name: MassachusettsOfficial name: Commonwealth of MassachusettsCommon name: Rhode IslandOfficial name: State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Wikipedia has a list of official state names here. I would maintain that a criminal case name, for instance, would be "the State of New York versus John Doe". So I would say that if you intend the word "state" to be part of the name, use the captial S. Note that you would never write "the State of Massachusetts", since its official name is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. >> \_> \_