Basic Guidelines for The Profile

General
Submissions to The Profile include the following categories: blog/short articles, opinion (letter to the editor type submissions), field notes, historical notes, State Soil Classifiers Association Newsletters (with permission), and a discussion board. The SSSA Multimedia Gallery, a gallery for images and videos, has previously been developed and will be linked to The Profile page. All submissions to The Profile will be reviewed by a member of the moderator group to ensure that they fit the scope of the platform and contain accurate information. It will be possible to comment on content posted on The Profile. The moderators reserve the right to remove any comments that do not constructively add to the conversation.

Some general guidelines for the posting of comments on The Profile site:
1) All commenters must be registered with SSSA and logged into the system in order to use The Profile. The name of the commenter will be provided in association with all comments.
2) Please read all comments before posting one of your own so that a coherent and logical discussion can be maintained.
3) Please use proper English and avoid the abbreviations and acronyms that are common on many message boards. Not all of our users are native English speakers and not all are regular participants on message boards, and we want the content here to be easily accessible to all users. In addition, this is a profession discussion board, and the posts associated with it should be professional.
4) Respect the opinions of others that are offered during the discussions. We will not all agree on the items being discussed and it is fine to offer dissenting opinions, but please do so in a respectful way. As part of this avoid angry, sarcastic, or vulgar language. Comments that are not respectful will be removed by the moderators.
5) Stay on topic for the given discussion.
6) Explain your points concisely and give proper credit to the intellectual property of others, just as you would in any professional writing.

Opinion, Short Article, and Note Submissions
Short, concise articles on soil science issues are welcome. These articles should focus on things that would not typically be published in an international research journal, such as field observations, regional work, interesting but non-replicated works, consulting case studies, opinions on soil science issues, etc. Other topics suitable for short notes include soil science education, history, and soils and society (including art and literature) issues. While there are not strict word limits, priority will be given to articles that are 2,500 words or less, not including figures, tables, and references. Figures and tables should also be limited, generally no more than a total of five per article. Formatting and style should follow the SSSA Publications Handbook and Style Manual (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/style/).

State Soil Classifiers Association Newsletters
The Profile will provide space where State Soil Classifiers Association Newsletters can be posted, with the appropriate permissions from the specific Association.

Discussion Board
Soil science topics that a forum member would like to discuss with others can be posted to the discussion board. This will then give the SSSA community the opportunity to provide feedback. Before posting a new discussion topic, please check other discussions to make sure you are not repeating something that is already under discussion.

**Soils Multimedia Gallery**
Photos and videos that show soil science features or procedures are welcome, via the Multimedia Gallery. Videos could, for example, show descriptions of soil pits, proper sampling techniques in the field or the proper way to conduct a given laboratory analysis. All photos and videos need to come with complete information that describes where the photo or video was taken, what soil features or activities are being depicted, and the name(s) and contact information of the submitter. Non-scientific images do not require peer-review but are reviewed for appropriateness. Scientific images are peer-reviewed by an assigned editor of Natural Sciences Education journal.

**Technical Taxonomy**
The technical taxonomy will include: soil formation, soil survey, geomorphology, classification, field application of soil science, digital soil mapping, digital soil morphometrics, consulting, hydric soils, legal and ethical issues, extension, education, soil health, gardening, forensics, art, history, geology, soil science procedures.