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How to make your paper accepted?

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Common reasons for rejection

- The article is not relevant to the journal.
- The paper is not styled for the journal.
- It was a poorly designed trial.
- The conclusions are unjustified.
- There was reviewer/editor bias.
- **The article was badly written.**

Types of Scientific Papers

- Original article – information based on original research
- Case reports – usually of a single case
- Technical notes - describe a specific technique or procedure
- Pictorial essay – teaching article with images
- Review – detailed analysis of recent research on a specific topic
- Commentary – short article with author's personal opinions
- Editorial – often short review or critique of original articles
- Letter to the Editor – short & on subject of interest to readers


Российский винегрет

Different ways of ordering your material

- Chronological or sequential
- From simple to complex
- From complex to simple (problem - solution)
- From general to specific
- From specific to general

Making a good title

- First, a good title predicts the content of the research paper *(Make sure your research title describes (a) the topic, (b) the method, (c) the sample, and (d) the results of your study)*
- Second, a good title should be interesting to the reader.
- Third, it should reflect the tone of the writing.
- Fourth, it should contain important keywords that will make it easier to be located during a keyword search.
- Make sure your title is between 5 and 15 words in length!

Title	Predicts content?	Interesting?	Reflects tone?	Important keywords?
Benefits of Meditation for the Nursing Profession: A Quantitative Investigation	Yes	No	No	Yes
Why Mindful Nurses Make the Best Communicators	No	Yes	Yes	No
Meditation Gurus	No	Yes	No	No
Nurses on the Move: A Quantitative Report on How Meditation Can Improve Nurse Performance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Elements in a title

- In technical and scientific writing the title is a precise description of the contents. It should include specific words to indicate the following:
- **the topic**, that is, the main, general subject you are writing about
- **the focus**, that is, a detailed narrowing down of the topic into the particular, limited area of your research
- optionally, for a scientific article, **the purpose** of your writing. This means including a word such as the following, which tells the reader what kind of argumentation to expect:
- **An analysis of … An assessment of … A comparison of … A description of …**
- **A discussion of … An evaluation of … An explanation of … An outline of …**

Some sample titles:

PURPOSE	TOPIC	FOCUS
An analysis of	out-patient care management	as a tool for improving healthcare in Egypt.
An overview of	nutritional needs	before, during and after an endurance event.
A discussion of	genetic engineering technology	and its effects on the environment.
An evaluation of	body mass index	among youth experiencing homelessness

Punctuation of titles:

capital letters

- It is clearer to type your title in lower case rather than in capital letters.
- Use capital letters for the first letter of all the main words in the title, including nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, longer prepositions, conjunctions
- Do not use capital letters for short structural words (except when they are the first word of the title), such as articles (*a, an, the*), short prepositions (*of, in, to,at*), co-ordinating conjunctions (*and, or, nor, but, for*)

Points to check in your own writing

- *Be precise and concise; strive for clarity and avoid terms with multiple meanings which might lead to misunderstanding*
- *Use key words from the paper to inform readers of the content, but try not to choose too many technical words as this will not attract a wider audience*
- Titles stand alone; they are not a part of the opening sentence or paragraph

- A Discussion of Patient-Physician Interaction
- Investigating Patient-Physician Interaction
- IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGING ON THE PATIENT-PHYSICIAN INTERACTION
- Willing to wait?: The influence of patient wait time on satisfaction with primary care
- An Internet-Based Patient-Provider Communication System: Randomized Controlled Trial
- Enhancing Doctor-Patient Communication Using Email: a Pilot Study.
- Using E-mail to Transform Patient and Physician Dialogue: Evidence from Krasnoyarsk, Russia
- Does Electronic Physician-to-Patient Communication Improve the Quality of Care in an Ambulatory Setting?

The mechanics of writing
The structure of the sentence

- **Each sentence should convey just one idea.**
- **To be a good writer you have to read well-written papers.**
- **The keys to successful writing are simplicity and clarity.**
- **Avoid the cardinal sins of writing which are:**
  - Lack of clarity.
  - Repetition.
  - Wordiness (using more words than needed).
  - Pretentious writing (claiming great merit or importance).
  - Use of jargon (words or expressions developed for use within a particular group of people).

The structure of the paragraph

- The paragraph usually starts by a topic sentence that opens the paragraph, followed by the information, data, ideas and finally a concluding sentence that closes the paragraph (if appropriate).

The sequence of writing

Who will write?

- When there are several authors, one only must write the paper. Too many writers produce a patchwork of different styles. Authorship, like so many acquired skills, must start early in life. The junior should write and the senior should revise.

The basic structure of an article IMRaD

Introduction
- Short review
- Shortcomings of the existing reports
- Aim of the study
- Scope of the study

Patients (or materials) and methods
- Full description of patients/materials
- Full description of methods
- Study design
- Statistical analysis
- Ethical considerations

Results
- Presentation of data
- Correlation of data

Discussion
- Introduction to discussion
- Discussion of the results
- Advantages of the study
- Limitations of the study
- Recommendations of authors

The reviewer's checklist

Introduction

Are the objectives clear?
Is the importance of the study adequately emphasised?
Is the subject matter of the study new?
Is previous work on the subject adequately cited?

Patients (materials) and methods

Is the study population detailed adequately?
Are the methods described well enough to reproduce the experiment?
Is the study design clear?
Are statistical methods included?
Are ethical considerations provided?

Results

Can the reader assess the results based on the data provided?
Is the information straightforward and not confusing?
Are there adequate controls?
Are statistical methods appropriate?

Discussion

Do the authors comment adequately on all their results?
Have the authors explained why and how their study differs from others already published?
Do the authors discuss the potential problems and limitations with their study?
Are the authors' conclusions supported by the results?

What is an Abstract?

- An abstract is a short summary of your completed research. If done well, it makes the reader want to learn more about your research

- If done poorly, no one will read your work!

Importance

- In today's online world, most search databases only contain abstracts.
- Therefore, it is vital to write a complete, concise description of your work/study to entice potential readers into obtaining a full copy of the paper
  - Bad abstract = no one buys your paper = no one reads it = no one wants to publish you again!
  - This applies to both journal and conference abstracts

Use

- Abstracts are used in multiple situations
  - Grant proposals
  - Introducing a journal article
  - Applying to speak at conferences
  - Describing a presentation you will give at a conference
  - Many others

TWO TYPES OF ABSTRACTS ARE GENERALLY USED:

- Descriptive Abstracts:
  - tell readers what information the paper contains;
  - include the purpose, methods, and scope of the paper;
  - do not provide results, conclusions, or recommendations;
  - are always very short, usually under 100 words;

- Informative Abstracts:
  - communicate specific information from the paper;
  - include the purpose, methods, and scope of the paper;
  - provide the paper's results, conclusions, and recommendations;
  - are short – from a paragraph to a page or two, usually they are 10% or less of the length of the original paper;
  - allow readers to decide whether they want to read the article.

Basic Components for All Disciplines

1. **Motivation/problem statement/purpose**
   - Why do we care about the problem? What practical, scientific, theoretical or artistic gap is your research filling?
2. **Methods/procedure/approach/ problem statement/ approach/ search strategies**
   - What did you actually do to get your results?
3. **Results/findings/product/ proposed solutions to the problem**
   - As a result of completing the above procedure, what did you learn/invent/create?
4. **Conclusion/implications/outcomes**
   - What are the larger implications of your findings, especially for the problem/gap identified in step 1?
   - However, it's important to note that the weight accorded to the different components can vary by discipline. For models, try to find abstracts of research that is similar to your research

An abstract should provide answers for the following questions:

- **What and why.**
- **What you found.**
- **How you did it.**

How to write a medical original article

Abstract

- **Objectives (Rational, Background)**

  To provide guidelines for potential authors on how to increase the chances of their manuscript being accepted, with a review focusing on writing an original medical article.

- **Methods (Approach)**

  This review reflects practical author guidelines provided by modern peer-reviewed medical journals as well as the personal experience of the author.

- **Results**

  To write an original article successfully, there are three essential requirements, the ‘basic triad’ of an original article. These are subjects worth reporting, knowledge of the basic structure of an article, and knowledge of the essential mechanics of good writing. This review details each of the three items.

- **Conclusions**

  Writing, like every other art, cannot be learned wholly from books or lectures, but can be learned largely by experience. The best training is to start the task and persevere. The act of writing, like surgical techniques, must be learned the hard way, by practice and perseverance. Anyone can start writing but only a good writer can finish the task.

THE FOUR “C’S” OF ABSTRACT WRITING

- Abstracts should be:
- Complete
  - cover major parts of project/case/study
- Concise
  - no excess wordiness or unnecessary information
- Clear
  - readable, well organized, and not jargon-laden.
- Cohesive
  - flows smoothly between parts

Do’s and don’ts of abstract writing

- Do meet the specific word length.
- Do answer the questions: what, why, and how.
- Do use familiar language to the reader.
- Do use a few keywords.
- Do write short sentences.
- Do improve transitions between the sentences.
- Do use active voice.
- Do begin with a clear introductory statement written in the present tense.
- Do use past tense in the main body.
- Do write a concluding statement in the present tense: just tells what the results mean (e.g. *"These results suggest..."*).
- Do fix grammar.

- Don't cite the sections of the paper.
- Don’t include references to the literature and to figures and tables.
- Don’t use abbreviations.
- Don’t add new information.
- Don't add superfluous information.
- Don’t add opinions.
- Don’t repeat information.
- Don’t repeat the article title.

Tips

- Active voice is preferable to passive voice:
  - *“We studied 15 patients with AIDS.” is better than “Fifteen patients with AIDS were studied.”*
- Always use the full term before you refer to it by acronym
- Write only one thought/idea per sentence.
- Ensure that verb tenses are consistent and correct.
- Use short, clear sentences.
- Avoid extensive nominalization.

Use “We made the assessment” instead of ”We assessed”.

Avoid dramatic vocabulary:

Taboo	Example	Alternative
Always, never	Researchers always argue that	Researchers (frequently/ commonly / typically) argue that
Perfect, best, worst, most (or any other superlative)	The perfect solution to the problem	(An ideal solution/one of the best solutions) to the problem
Very, extremely, really, too, so (or any other intensifier)	This theory is extremely important	This theory is (important/ critical/ crucial)
Beautiful, ugly, wonderful, horrible, good, bad	A review of the literature yielded many good articles	A review of the literature yielded many relevant articles
Obviously, of course	The results obviously indicate	The results clearly indicate
Naturally	The participants naturally wanted to know	The participants wanted to know

Tips

- Use "cannot" instead of "can't", "do not" instead of "don't“
- Avoid using phrases such as "I think", "I guess", "I suppose“
- Eliminate unnecessary words: *“in order to investigate” - “to investigate”, “take into consideration” – “consider”*
- Improve transitions between the sentences using linking words *(such as “moreover”, “however”, “in general”, “although”, “firstly,… secondly…” , etc.)*
- Be consistent in using British or American English *(analyse, tumour – analyze, tumor)*
- Edit, edit, edit!

Tips

- The study was performed…. (Past Simple),
- but the paper describes… (Present Simple)
- Do not start the sentence with a number. Use *"A total of," "Altogether there were," or "In all".*

a. ***A total of*** *548 thefts were reported in the city last year.*

b. ***Altogether,*** *89 people attended the ceremony.*

c. ***In all,*** *five teams competed in the race.*

- *Pay attention to the punctuation!*

a. *189,000 patients* b. *2.8% of respondents* c. *July 5, 2020*

Oxford's comma: *Cancer, hepatitis,* ***and*** *diabetes…*

The typical mistakes in writing a scientific paper

- **The sections are mixed up**
  Example : Only 3 of 10 bees flew at a higher speed than flies, suggesting that flies are commonly faster than bees.

Commentary:

Only the first part of the sentence should be part of the result section, the second half is interpretation and should be placed in the discussion.

Top 10 Attributes of a Good Medical Writer

Domain Knowledge:
Substantial knowledge of varied therapeutic areas, regulatory/scientific guidelines and key statistical concepts.

Know the audience:
Understands the audience - regulators, scientists, clinicians or public. Writes according to their need: regulatory, publication and/or educational.

Writing skills
Logical and succinct with accurate data interpretation & representation. Ensures correct grammar, composition, format/template and style. Pays attention to detail, cross checks and proof reads.

Data integrity
Maintains accuracy, consistency and security of data using stringent document management systems.

Update
Keeps oneself abreast of new information and undergoes training for new skill sets.

Clarity
Establishes clear objective(s), organizes ideas and embraces creativity with precise understanding of work process.

Literature search
Uses well planned search strategy, appropriate keywords and credible sources.

Unbiased
Performs critical content review, correctly interprets results, identifies potential limitations and discusses unexpected findings.

Interpersonal skills
Well honed verbal, non-verbal and listening skills for problem solving, negotiations and decision making.

Project management skills
Highly organized, proactive, respects metrics driven timelines & accountability for quality. Accepts responsibilities and delegates efficiently.