

Writing for Journal Publication

A presentation by
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Presentation will look at:

- Contribution of academic journals
- Challenges of writing
- Common flaws in academic writing
- Selecting appropriate journal for submission
- Submission protocols
- Review criteria
- Key elements and academic conventions
- Abstracts and key words
- Desirable features in journal papers
- Useful strategies



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Importance of journals

- Major forum for dissemination of current knowledge
- Forum for shorter focused papers for quick distribution
- Mechanism for peer review of quality
- Means to assess impact of research and scholarship
- Opportunity to set work alongside others in field
- Useful framework for disciplined and scholarly writing and reporting
- Means to establish and promote innovative work



Challenges of Writing

Writing requires:

- Knowledge
- Competencies
- Attitudes and dispositions
- Resources



Writing Knowledge

- Original and relevant research data, theory, conceptual understandings
- Journal requirements and protocols
- Understanding of academic and scholarly conventions
- Subject discipline knowledge



Writing Competencies

- Fluency
- Scholarship
- Collaborative skills



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Writing Attitudes/Dispositions

- Self discipline
- Self organisation
- Commitment
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Persistence
- Precision
- Resilience and 'stickability'
- Physical and mental wellbeing
- Inspiration



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Writing Resources

- Time
- Space - physical and mental
- Equipment
- Technical support
- Access to library
- Professional and personal support and encouragement



Writing and drafting strategies

- Careful planning to ensure all key requirements of journal are met in terms of content, format and audience
- Creating opportunities to discuss material with peers
- Taking paper through several drafting cycles which invite critical review and feedback
- Careful proof reading to ensure fluency and grammatically accuracy
- Careful checking of references and presentation requirements



Common flaws in writing

- Lack of fit with journal focus
- Poor fluency and non compliance with standards and academic conventions
- Poor sense and clarity of audience
- Inadequate and dated referencing and citation
- Poorly constructed abstracts with missing information
- Inadequate explanation of context and rationale
- Poor literature review



Common flaws in writing

- Lack of theoretical and conceptual underpinning
- Poor explanation of research design and methodology, including analytical techniques
- Poor discussion of relevance and contribution of the paper (applications)
- Thinness or lack of originality
- Ethically inept



Submission requirements

- Length
- Content
- Format
- Tables and referencing conventions
- Number of copies (hard and electronic)
- Translations
- Contact details

Editorial Review Process

- Received by Editor, acknowledged and logged
- Sent out to blind reviewers
- Reading and assessment of paper according to journal criteria
- Sent back to Editor
- Collation of reviews, final decision made
- Author informed of result
- Time taken for review process varies

Assessment criteria

- Relevance of content to journal
- Theoretical and conceptual foundations
- Depth and rigour of method and reporting
- Topicality, originality and contribution
- Ethics
- Length and format
- Referencing and citation
- Clarity and fluency
- Applications

Decision

- A1: Excellent, publish forthwith
- A2: Worth publishing, with minor changes
- B: Marginally worth publishing with major publications
- C: Not suitable for publication

Key elements in papers

- Abstract and key words
- Rationale and focus
- Theoretical and conceptual sources
- Relationship to other work
- Research design and methodology
- Ethics, reliability and validity
- Findings
- Discussion
- Applications
- Referencing and citation

Desirable features

- Topical and relevant
- Groundbreaking and original
- Fluent and concise
- Scholarly and rigorous
- Ethical
- Promote quality provision
- Promote equality and inclusion

Useful strategies

- Careful choice of journal
- Review nature of published papers
- Identify audience of journal and direct text accordingly
- Liaise with Editor early and regularly through review process
- Check CVs of Editor and Review Panel
- Careful compliance with Journal requirements
- Systematic drafting and peer review process prior to submission
- Careful proof reading
- Openness to modify, add and amend I response to reviews
- View whole process as developmental and supportive
- Capacity to ask for help