



Writing and Publishing Journal Articles: Ways to Decrease Stress and Increase Success

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Sri Lanka Medical Association, 6 March 2015

Welcome!

AUTHORAID





Plans

- 20 tips for increasing success and decreasing stress when writing and publishing journal articles (micro version of AuthorAID workshop)
- Open discussion (can ask questions orally or in writing)
- Availability after the session and by email
- Handout provided



Writing and Publishing Journal Articles

20 Tips for Increasing Success and Decreasing Stress

1. Write to communicate, not to impress.

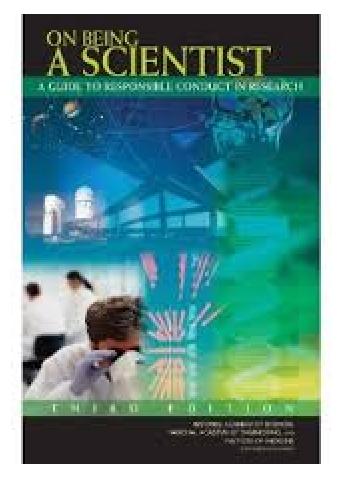
- Desired impression: The material is clear, important, and interesting.
- Undesirable impression: You have a big vocabulary, and the subject matter is confusing.
- Good writing: largely "invisible writing"
- Remember: Many readers know relatively little English, and most readers are busy.

- 2. Start thinking about publication when you plan your research.
- Is the research carefully designed?
- Have you planned the statistical analysis, if any?
- Will you have all the information needed to write
 a publishable
 paper?



3. Know the ethics.

- Authenticity
- Accuracy
- Originality
- Credit
- Ethical treatment of humans and animals
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest



4. Take full advantage of library resources.

- Important for background knowledge
- Important for context
- Include openly accessible and other articles
- A resource: librarians





5. Make key decisions early.

- Author list
- Journal
- Other



ICMJE Criteria for Authorship

- From the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors
- Updated August 2013
- See

http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/bro wse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-therole-of-authors-and-contributors.html. "The ICMJE recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved."

Something Fairly New: ORCID

- Stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID
- Launched in late 2012
- "ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher"
- ORCID identifiers can aid in tracking authors of papers, grants, etc

ORCID

See <u>http://orcid.org/</u>

6. Follow the journal's instructions to authors.

- Surprisingly, this advice is often ignored.
- Extremely important
- Most journals post instructions on their websites.

EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Rd, NE Mail stop D61 Atlanta, GA 30333 Phone: 404 639-1950 Fax: 404 639-1954

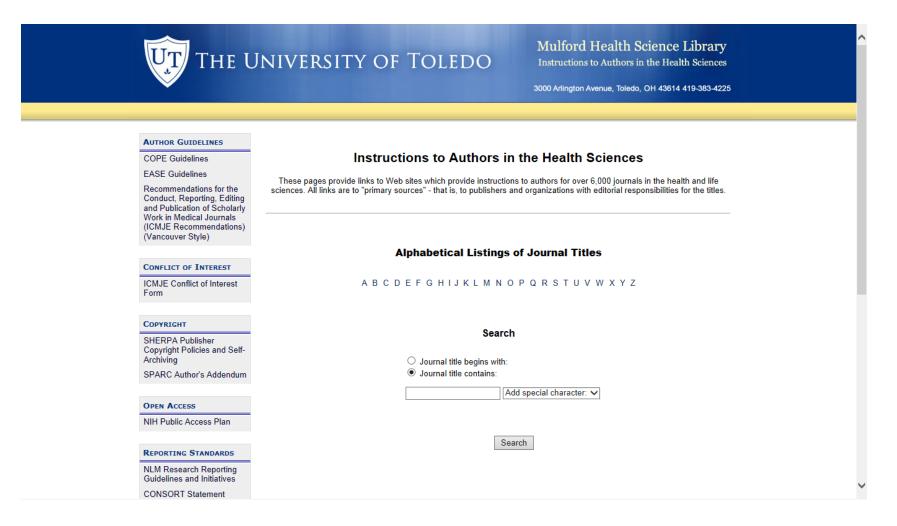
Checklist for Authors: Note that EID follows the policies and recommendations of the ICMDE

First Author and Manuscript Title: Proprietary Co

Proprietary Considerations
Authors agree that if their manuscript is accepted for publication in <u>Emerging Infectious Diseases</u> , it will upon publication be in the public domain and can be used without liability for copyright infringement.
This manuscript (or one with substantially similar content written by the authors) has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere.
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Any organization or person with a financial interest in the subject matter is disclosed in the manuscript.
Authors have disclosed any conflicts of interest related to this article. EID accepts the <u>ICMJE Conflict of</u> Interest form.
This research has been approved by appropriate human or animal subjects research review boards, which are named in the manuscript.
DNA and amino acid sequences have been submitted to an open access sequence database such as GenBank $^{\oplus}$ and accession numbers are used to refer to the sequences.
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Formatting, References, Figures, Word Count, Units of Measure
Authors have accessed and used guidance provided in the Author Resource Center.
All pages are double-spaced, numbered, and left justified (ragged right margin).
All references are cited in the text in sequential order, comply with <u>Uniform Requirements</u> , and have been checked for accuracy and completeness.
Legends for figures are at the end of the text, following the reference list and any tables.
Each figure or panel of a figure is in a separate file, and each file is at least 300 DPI.
The abstract and manuscript meet specified word counts, which are strictly enforced.
Continuous line numbering is turned on and applied throughout the document.
All units of measure are expressed in SI units.

Additional notes or statements:

Instructions to Authors in the Health Sciences (<u>http://mulford.utoledo.edu/instr/</u>)



7. Use good models.

- Good scientific writing: largely a matter of imitation
- Use articles in your target journal as models.
- Some things to notice (if not specified in the instructions): length, number of figures and tables, use of headings, reference format, technical level, style, other

8. Organize the information carefully.

- Robert A. Day: "The preparation of a scientific paper has less to do with literary skill than with organization."
- Time invested in organization can save much time later.
- Usual organization of a scientific paper: IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion)
- A common structure of case reports: Introduction, Case Description, Discussion

Use oral & poster presentations to help shape your paper.

- Helps define focus
- Encourages you to analyze the work
- Helps in organizing content
- Provides opportunity for feedback



10. Set aside blocks of time for writing.

- Reserve times for writing.
- Consider having regularly scheduled times to write.
- Choose times you tend to function best.



11. Keep your audience in mind.

- Some possible readerships:
 - Researchers
 - Clinicians (general physicians, specialists, subspecialists)
 - Other health professionals
 - Medical students
 - Others: policymakers, members of public, et al
- Gear the content to the readers' knowledge.
- Gear the content to the readers' interests.

12. Start with whatever part you find easiest.

When writing a paper, what part would you find easiest to start with?

- Introduction?
- Methods?
- Results?
- Discussion?
- Something else?



13. Check for proper English and for readability.

- Check grammar, punctuation, and usage.
- Make sure that acronyms are defined.
- Pay attention to items often difficult for non-native users of English:
 - Preposition use
 - Verb tense
 - Use of articles such as the
 - Other

Writing Readably: Using Simpler Words

- attempt \rightarrow
- currently \rightarrow
- demonstrate \rightarrow
- fundamental \rightarrow
- numerous \rightarrow
- subsequently \rightarrow
- utilize \rightarrow

Writing Readably: Deleting Needless Words

- in the field of cardiology
- green in color
- is a very rare event
- to show whether or not it works
- of an efficient nature
- count the number of cells
- completely destroy

Writing Readably: Condensing Wordy Phrases

- at high speed \rightarrow
- at some future time \rightarrow
- for this reason \rightarrow
- in most instances \rightarrow
- in the event that \rightarrow
- the majority of \rightarrow
- is able to \rightarrow

Writing Readably: Using Verbs, Not Nouns Made from Them

- have effects on \rightarrow
- make contributions \rightarrow
- produce relief of \rightarrow
- provide help to \rightarrow
- delivered a lecture \rightarrow
- There is a wide variation in mortality. \rightarrow
- It is my belief that \rightarrow

14. Make sure the text and tables/ figures don't overlap too much.

- A common problem: The text repeats too much information from the tables and figures.
- In general, the text should present only the main message(s) and most important content from each table and figure.
- (Do remember to mention each table and figure.)

15. Get feedback from others before submitting your paper.

- "Pre-submission peer review"
- Can be helpful to get feedback from
 - Another specialist in your research area
 - Someone in your general field
 - Someone outside your field



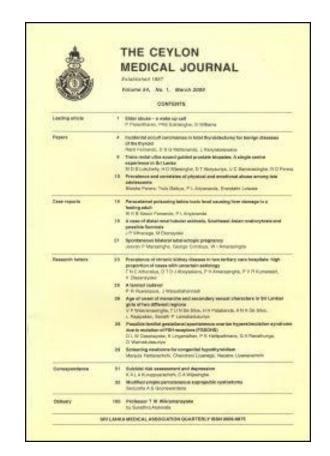
16. Revise, revise, revise.

- In revising, make good use of feedback from others.
- Also, set aside the paper for a while, so you can view it with a fresh eye.
- A story: editor of the Journal of Clinical Investigation



17. Understand how journals work, and interact with them accordingly.

- Initial screening
- Peer review
- Editor's decision
- Revision
- Copyediting
- Review of proofs
- Other



18. View peer reviewers and editors as your allies.

- Peer reviewers
 - Not only a source of advice to editors
 - Also a source of mentorship for authors
- Editors
 - Your goal and theirs: to publish an excellent paper
 - Work together to overcome barriers

19. Consider obtaining assistance from a mentor or "author's editor".

- Some sources of mentorship
 - One's current or former professors
 - Senior colleagues
 - AuthorAID mentorship volunteers
 - Other
- "Author's editors"—editors whose role is to help authors improve materials before submission
 - At editing companies
 - On a freelance basis
 - At some institutions

20. Make good use of online resources.



Some Resources

AuthorAID (<u>www.authoraid.info</u>)

- Project mainly to help authors in developing countries to write about and publish their work
- Includes
 - A resource library
 - An e-mail discussion list
 - A blog
 - And more
- Provides opportunity to obtain mentors
- From INASP (the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications)

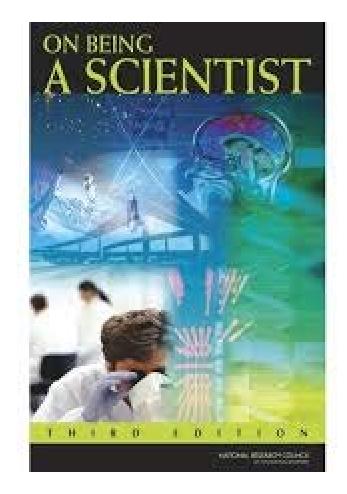
AuthorAID

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By Bernard Appiah Feb. 24, 2015 <u>1 Comment</u>	Research interests: Anesthesiology, Critical Care, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery	decision-making Intensive Course in Research Writing June 22, 2015 Texas A&M University, College Station Texas USA

On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research

- www.nap.edu/catalog.php ?record_id=12192
- Book on ethics in research and publication
- From the US National Academies
- Available online
- Intended mainly for earlycareer researchers
- Also relevant to scholars other than scientists



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bluebird	Find definitions of bluebird
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bl????rd	Find words that start with bl_s end with rd_s with 4 letters in between
bl*:snow	Find words that start with bland have a meaning related to snow
bl*:adjective	Find any adjectives that start with bl
<u>*:snow</u> or <u>:snow</u>	Find any words related to <i>snow</i>
*:winter sport	Find words related to the concept winter sport
winter	Find phrases that contain the word winter
expand:nasa	Find phrases that spell out n.a.s.a.

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(colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign)

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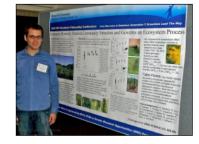
TIPS

- Adding photo creds to talk slides
- Designing conference posters
- Getting rid of camel crickets
- Giving a research talk
- Maintaining a lab notebook
- Protecting gardens from squirrels
- Requesting a recommendation

Designing conference posters

A one-sentence overview of the poster concept

A large-format poster is a big piece of paper (or wall-mounted monitor) that can communicate your research at a conference, and is composed of a short title, an introduction to your burning question, an overview of your novel approach, your amazing results in graphical form, some insightful discussion of aforementioned results, a listing of previously published articles that are important to your research, and some brief acknowledgement of the tremendous assistance and financial



support conned from others — if all text is kept to a minimum, a person could fully read your poster in under 5 minutes (really).

Why a poster? • Motivational advice • Choosing software • Poster templates • Section content • DOs and DON'Ts • Adding pieces of flair • Presenting the poster • Useful internet sites • Useful literature • Printing the poster • Organizing a session • Using this page • Feedback

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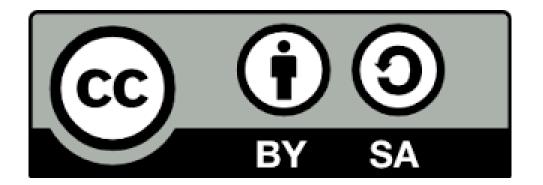
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