



Producing a Scholarly Publication

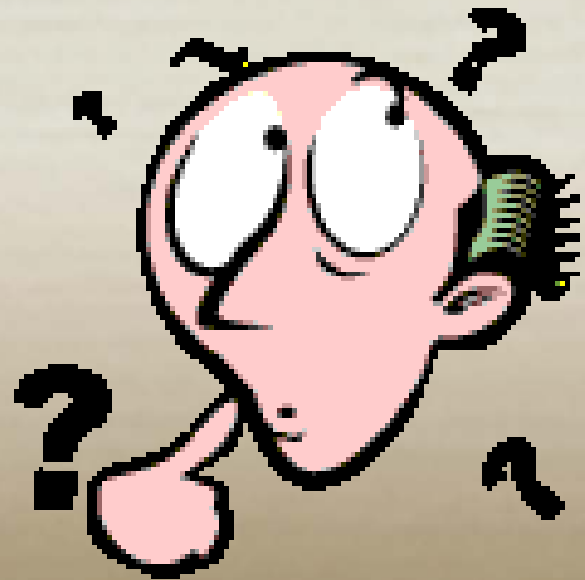
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Step 1 – Formulate a general topic of interest

- A single finding
- Group of findings





Step 2 – Literature Review

- What is known about the topic?





Step 3 – Narrow the topic to a specific question

- What do you want to know about this topic?
- How can the problem be reduced or eliminated?
- What methods or procedures can be applied?
- What rules or regulations should be implemented?
- What is the history of the problem? Is it a localized problem or are different areas affected by the same type of problem?





Step 4 - Review your research

- Is the answer to your question available?
- Does it enable you to develop a thesis statement?
- Where are the gaps in the research area?
- What type of research still needs to be performed?





Step 5 – Begin writing the paper

- **Title** – Should be brief and descriptive. Clearly indicate what the study is about.
- **Abstract** – Describes the most important aspects of the study. The primary focus is the problem statement and your findings.
- **Introduction** – Describes the investigated problem, the importance of the study, and an overview of your research approach.
- **Literature Review** – Discuss previous significant findings. Introduce and summarize the literature findings. State your thesis based on the gathered information.





Step 5 – Begin writing the paper (Cont.)

- **Method** – Description of the sample, materials (surveys, tests, questionnaires, interview forms, instruments, and any other data tools used), and procedures implemented (describe the design of the study, is it a case study, a meta-analysis, a controlled experiment, or any other type of research).
- **Results** – Summary of findings, describe the process and techniques used, analysis conducted and analysis results.
- **Discussion** – Discuss and interpret the data. Identify study limitations.
- **References** – Properly cite all references used based on the formatting style regulations.



REJECTION!

- It is so discouraging... you put the time in submit and receive that letter of rejection.
- Let's look at common reasons for rejection and ways to avoid them.

Reasons for Rejection

(based on our experience as editors)

- Lack of clarity in writing
 - Outline!
 - Proofread!!
 - Ensure clear flow of ideas from beginning to end
 - Follow suggested format provided in this presentation
- Insufficient literature review and tying to past works
 - Ensure logical path from past efforts to your own
 - Develop a schematic that relates bodies of literature and highlights where your work fits in
- Insufficient data
 - Ensure your data and results are compelling

Reasons for Rejection

(based on our experience as editors)

- Grammatical weaknesses
 - Obtain the services of an English editor
- Too long and laborious to read
 - Outline and proofread!
- Bad fit with journal submitted to
 - Email an abstract to the editor
- Authors have attempted to disguise a marketing tool as a journalistic article
- Does not follow correct format (APA or other)

Reasons for Rejection

- **Authors do not follow basic rules of professional writing. For example:**
 - Make sure completed articles are polished and professional.
 - Write an interesting lead that ties neatly to the conclusion.
 - Use creative titles and subheads (and sidebars where appropriate).
 - Evaluate the article for focus, organization, clarity, flow, missing words, irrelevant information and redundancies.
 - Use a variety of background literature sources; thereby providing a comprehensive literature review.
 - Double-check all references and make sure all attributive facts are complete and consistent.
 - Check spelling electronically and manually.

Reasons for Rejection

(an empirical study from the medical field)

- What is the single most common type of flaw that results in outright **rejection** of a manuscript?
 - Design of study (71%)
 - Interpretation of the findings (14%)
 - Importance of the topic (14%)
- Which section usually contains the most flaws?
 - Methods (55%)
 - Discussion (24%)
 - Results (21%)
- Which section is most often responsible for outright **rejection**?
 - Methods (52%)
 - Results (28%)
 - Discussion (21%)

Reasons for Rejection

(an empirical study from the medical field)

- **Deficiencies in Interpretation**
 - Which of the following deficiencies is most often responsible for outright rejection?
 - Conclusions unsupported by data (61%)
 - Data inconclusive (25%)
 - Data too preliminary (7%)
 - Unconvincing evidence of cause and effect (7%)
- **Questions About Importance of Research**
 - Which of the following deficiencies is most often responsible for outright rejection?
 - Results unoriginal, predictable, or trivial (79%)
 - Few or no engineering/design implications (13%)
 - Results of narrow interest, highly specialized (8%)

Reasons for Rejection

(an empirical study from the medical field)

- **Deficiencies in Design and Interpretation**
 - Which of the following deficiencies is most often responsible for outright rejection?
 - Research design problems (30%)
 - Deficiency in methodology (26%)
 - Poor conceptualization of problem or approach (26%)
 - Inadequate control of variables (7%)
 - Duplication of previous work, especially without reference to such work (7%)

Reasons for Rejection

(an empirical study from the medical field)

- **Deficiencies in Design and Interpretation**
 - Which of the following deficiencies is most often responsible for outright rejection?
 - Failure to collect data on variables that could influence interpretation of results (52%)
 - Poor response rates in surveys (28%)
 - Extensive missing data and quality-control problems (10%)
 - Which of the following deficiencies is most often responsible for outright rejection?
 - Biased sample which reduced the representativeness of population studied (34%)
 - Confounding factors that were not taken into account (34%)
 - Inadequate sample size (21%)
 - Vague conclusions, such as “much improved”, without supporting data (3%)
 - In our experience this is much higher
 - Straying from the hypothesis or changing the objective (3%)

Reasons for Rejection

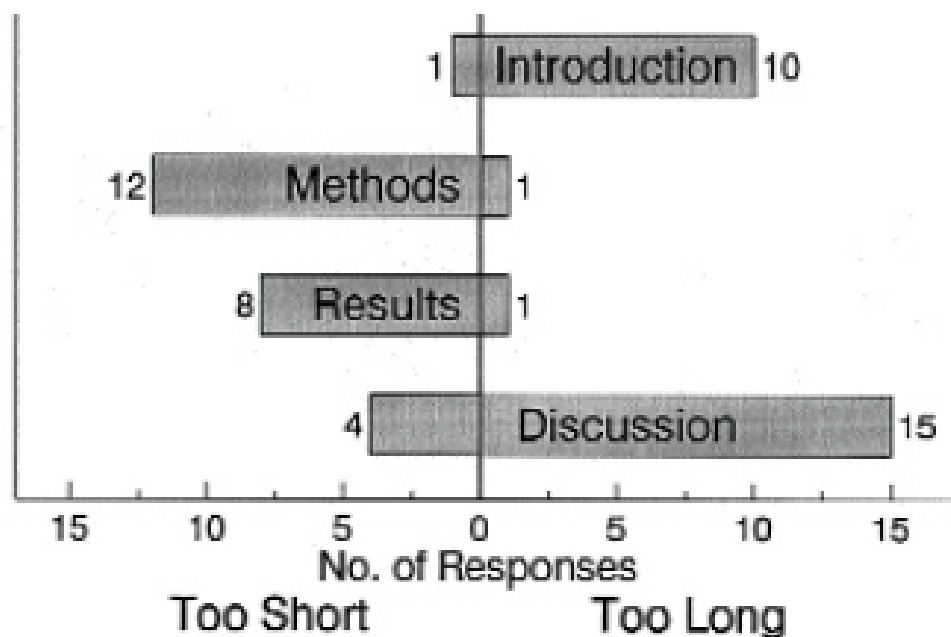
(an empirical study)

- **Deficiencies in Presentation**

- Which of the following deficiencies is most often responsible for outright rejection?
 - Inadequate or inappropriate presentation of data (32%)
 - Rationale confused, contradictory (25%)
 - Failure to give a detailed explanation of exptl design (25%)
 - Essential data omitted or ignored (7%)
 - Poorly written; excessive jargon (7%)
 - Boring (4%)
- Which of the following deficiencies is most often responsible for outright rejection?
 - Poor methods (36%)
 - Inadequate results (25%)
 - Poor presentation (11%)
 - Weak discussion (7%)
 - Inappropriate statistical analysis (11%)
 - Lack of originality (7%)
 - Weak conclusions (4%)

Manuscript Length

Figure. Sections of a manuscript that are too long and too short. Which section is usually too short? Which section is usually too long?



Byrne DW. Publishing your medical research paper: what they don't teach in medical school. Baltimore: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1998. p 58.

Writing Deficiencies

- Of the following 9 writing problems listed below which is most common?
 - Verbiage, wordiness (43%)
 - Poor flow of ideas (21%)
 - Poor syntax, poor grammar (18%)
 - In our experience this is much higher
 - Redundancy (11%)
 - Excessive abstraction (4%)
 - Unnecessary complexity (4%)



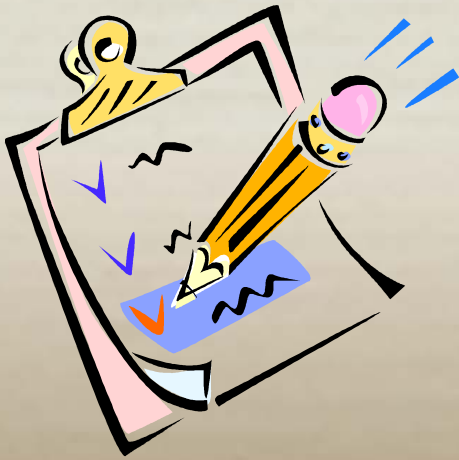
Step 6 - Proof read the article



- Content
- Information flow
- Grammar



Step 7 - Edit the article



- Formatting requirements
- Writing format rules (APA, MLA)



Step 8 - Submit the article for peer review

- Submission requirements
- Review process





Step 9 – Modify the article based on reviewer comments

- Content
- Grammar





Step 10 – Submit final version





Questions

