

Secrets behind successful research paper writings

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❑ As long as you have an opinion and can support it with facts, you have the makings of an interesting piece.

❑ We all have opinions, right?

Yet not all of us are good writers and not all research papers are worth reading. Despite the wide variety, there are guidelines to write clinical oriented articles that can help you improve your knowledge.

❑ At some point during your research career, you will have to face the challenge of writing a research paper .

❑ Many of you know it, It is not an easy task.

PLAN AHEAD

Too many people begin writing their topic with only a vague sense of opinion, never honing, or refining, that opinion into something sharp and distinctive.

RESEARCH YOUR TOPICS

Most people read articles because they want to learn something about a particular subject. Your readers will be able to sense if your article is backed up with fact or not, so do your homework before you write.

MINE THE DATA

An editorial is only as good as its facts. Sure, you may think that HIV can't be transmitted through mosquitoes is wrong and worthy of outlaw, but without backing it up with data, you have nothing but a half-formed opinion. Get the back-story; understand your argument inside out. Research every aspect of your topic and cite as many facts as possible

- Writing a paper or report or dissertation is a skill.
- Apart from its scientific content, it should be clear, well structured and readable.
- Excellent results does not necessarily mean publication recognition or excellence
- Must know how to convince others that your research is good

Become a sales representative
You are marketing your research

- Writing is an art rather than a science

More of a problem based writing activity

First

Get a clear understanding of what you want to say Identify the main points
Your purpose of writing the article , areas of argument, which either support
or reject other work

Do you have substantial data ?

YES

Then gather the documentation

-data gathering process makes the actual writing much easier.

Review process

Inquire about how papers are reviewed and how decisions are made.

Team

-Take advice from your research team

-Know your role and explicitly communicate that role to every one

-Do not submit a research paper based on the advice of anyone

Structuring your paper:

Introduction

- Known and unknown! Why this study?
- Familiarize the topic
- Briefly review the literature
- State the hypothesis
- Do not include data.

Methods

- Start for beginning authors.
- Reproducible.
- Sources of key reagents
- When and where; Sampling design; method of data analysis.

Results

- Heart of the paper
- Logical progression
- Only enough interpretation to lead reader from one experiment to the next
- Avoid duplication of information ; between text, figures, legends and tables.

Structuring your paper continuation..

Discussion

- Hardest section.
- Restate the reasons for the study
- Interpret the findings, their significance, place them. Avoid redundancy.
- Avoid unduly speculative comments.

References

- Limit number of references.
- Avoid excessive self-citations.
- Ensure correct formatting.
- Check references for accuracy.

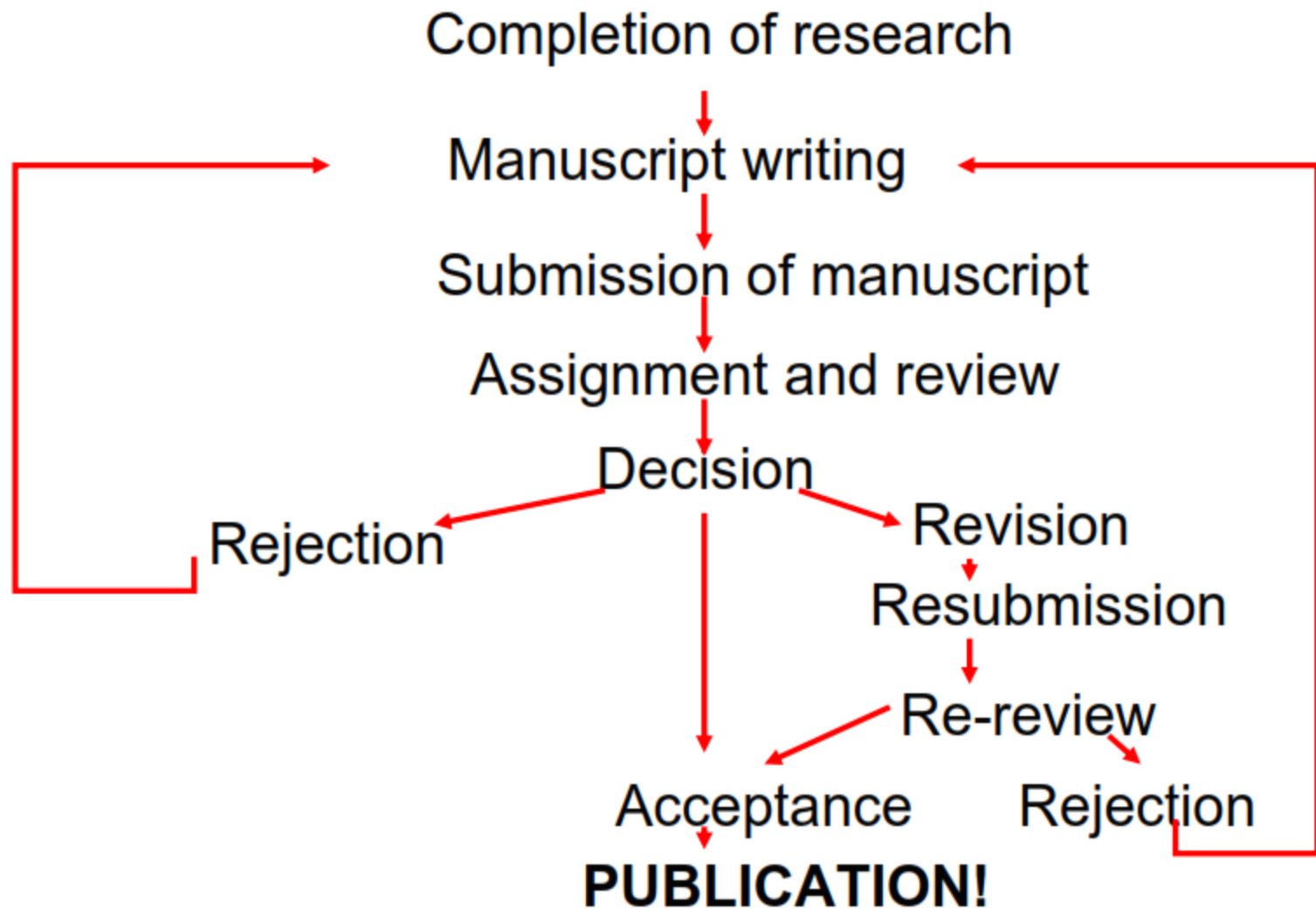
Vancouver style:

References

They are identified by: **(1)**, **[1]**,

1 , or Numbering references: In order of appearance in the text.

Harvard style:



“I don't believe I've ever seen a scientific paper defended quite as vigorously as this one!”



Why publish

- No publication, no funding
- No publication, no promotion

Publishing : vital for success

The submission process

- Avoid careless spelling, grammar mistakes.
- Cover letter to Editor-in-Chief
- Provide requested items.
- Word limitations.
- Review published papers for style and form.

Utilize accepted and std abbreviations.

- New abbreviations- spell out.
- Ask a colleague to read, review and suggest.
- Ensure appropriate file format.
- Confirm receipt.
- Enquire.

Peer Review

- Returned for revision- it's OK to get mad.
- Understand the reviewers.
- Look for clues from the editor.
- Point-by-point response.
- Stand firm; but do so diplomatically, backed up with citations.
- Be willing to accept constructive criticism.
- Sincerely thank the editor and reviewers.

Major reasons for rejection

- Inappropriate for the journal
- Merely confirmatory
- Describes poorly-designed or inconclusive studies
- Poorly written- Great science in an ugly package.

Handling rejection

- Major revision/ rejected: consider another journal
- More papers are rejected on the basis of priority than because of scientific flaws.

Common ethical issues

- Human and animal welfare concerns
- Authorship disputes
- Duplicate publication
- Data fabrication/falsification
- Plagiarism
- Conflicts of interest

Plagiarism- how to avoid

- Provide citation to the work of others.
- Do not copy exact wording from another source, even if referenced, unless in quotes

Finally

Is writing a paper- an art;
a skill!!!!?

Practice, practice, and practice!