

Afterword: Final Pointers

Journal editors are committed to communicating nursing knowledge that makes a significant contribution to patient care, healthcare policy, education, and the nursing profession. Policies and practices are in place to ensure that everything they publish is trustworthy, accurate, and adheres to the highest scientific and ethical standards.

As a published author, you will have met those standards. The pride you'll feel is well earned. You have contributed new knowledge or innovative solutions to the healthcare community. Because of your hard work—the long hours writing and revising, the struggle to find just the right words—nursing knowledge has moved incrementally forward, and someone's life is that much better.

Remember, editors want well-written manuscripts on important and timely topics that add something new to the literature. They want more nurses to write for publication, and they love first-time authors who are committed to the work of writing well. Do not be intimidated. Don't be afraid to reach out to them.

Most importantly, keep writing. Don't let a rejection stop you. No published author out there has escaped a rejection. Your work is important, and others need to read about it.

Following are some final tips on getting your manuscript published.



Top 10 Tips for Getting Published

1. Do good work

Be rigorous in your methodology. No amount of revision will fix shoddy work.

2. Synthesize

There's no reason to publish a paper that just lists information from other articles. You have to make sense of it for the reader—what it means when it's all pulled together.

3. Make your case

Begin with an introduction that engages readers and convinces them of the importance of your topic. Then at the finish, convince them of the significance of your outcomes with a strong discussion of the application to practice, research, or policy development.

4. Go deep

Provide specific, detailed information at a level of complexity that goes beyond what readers can find in a textbook. Engage in a thoughtful and analytical discussion of content.

5. Cite the best evidence

Make sure you support information or assertions with evidence. Use recent primary sources from respected peer-reviewed journals.

6. Contribute something new

If the information can be found elsewhere, there's no reason for a journal to publish your work.

7. Write well

Clarity, precision, and conciseness are the hallmarks of good writing. Get feedback! You are reading what you think you wrote—someone else will read what is actually there.

8. Be ethical

Adhere to ethical and legal publishing standards. Use a software program to check your work for unintentional plagiarism before submitting.

9. Choose the right journal

Consider whether your manuscript will be most valuable to researchers, educators, clinicians, or a general nursing audience, and then find a journal that reaches that group.

10. Follow guidelines

Follow the appropriate guidelines for the type of article you're writing (e.g., SQUIRE for quality improvement or ICMJE for research articles). Make sure you follow the journal's author guidelines exactly.