

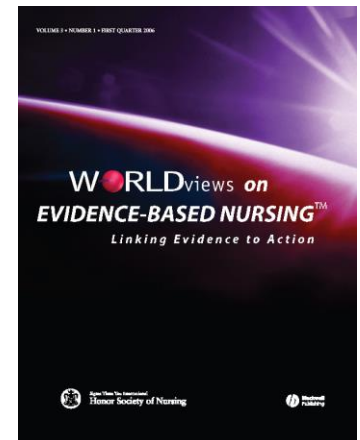
Getting Published

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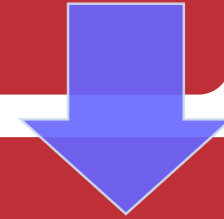
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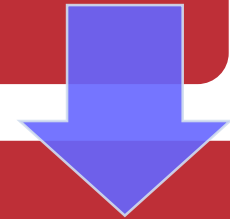


Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing®

Getting started
Tips for writing



Submission & Peer
Review



Ethics

What is the publishable manuscript?

- Author guidelines
- Format
- [International] context mission of the journal
- How do you craft a paper?
 - e.g., Dissertations into papers
 - Different types of papers, e.g. systematic review

Getting Started

- It all starts with the vision of what you want to publish (e.g., a data-based article, a controversial editorial, an evidence-based practice implementation project)
- Start a creative ideas publishing file
- Think about your target audience (e.g., clinicians, educators, researchers, nurse executives, the public)
- Think about how this will fit into your career portfolio, especially if you are in academia
- Consider the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) ranking if important for your career

Planning the Manuscript

- Use other like articles that have been published as a template
- Sketch out a plan and outline for the manuscript
- Think about the following:

What is my main message?

What did I do?

How did I do it?

What did I find?

What are the implications?

Create an Outline with Parts of the Manuscript

Typical Outline for a Data-based Paper

- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction with the purpose
- Background and literature review, including the conceptual/theoretical framework
- Methods
- Analysis
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions and implications for clinical practice and future research

Common problems / issues

- Done to death
- Do not follow author guidelines
 - Too esoteric - left of field
 - fit, timing
 - Way too short, way too long
- Setting within a broader context/international context
- Authors/authorship not clear

Writing in teams

- Who is the writing team
- Authorship
- What are everyone's expectations



Novice writers

- Find a mentor – writing buddy
 - Someone you can trust and will provide you with honest feedback
 - A published writer
- Look across different journals
 - Note different styles/aims/approaches

Pitfalls to avoid when writing

- Titles that don't match articles
- Structured abstracts
- Literature reviews that don't lead you to why you did this study and lack rigor
- Standards for reporting– CONSORT, etc.

Pitfalls to avoid when writing (continued)

- Lack of information about what you did and how you did it – trustworthiness and rigour
- Validity and reliability of tools
- Tables and figures
- Discussion does not relate to findings
- References – old, incomplete, not in right format

Key messages

- Follow the author guidelines or risk your manuscript being returned without peer review
- You never get a second chance to make a great first impression!

Peer review process

- What is involved in the peer review process
 - Typical review criteria
 - Possible outcomes of review process
- How to deal with feedback
 - Typical reasons for revision
- Strategies for re-submission

Three Scenarios with Submitted Manuscripts

- Accept
- Revise and resubmit
- Reject - Typical reasons include:
 - Content is not new
 - A similar paper was recently published
 - Content too specialized or not specialized enough for the readership
 - Writing style not clear- a fatal flaw!
 - Poor writing
 - Logic and flow

Typical reasons for rejection (continued)

- It does not fit the journal
- Poor evidence/literature review
- Inadequate description of data collection and analysis approach
- Lacking international perspective (depending on the journal)
- Duplicate publication
- Redundancy
- Questionable contribution

Revising and Persisting!

- Important Facts to Remember
 - Very few papers are accepted without revisions
 - Many well written papers are rejected because the content and focus would be better suited to another journal
 - The paper is NOT you!

Typical Reasons for Revision

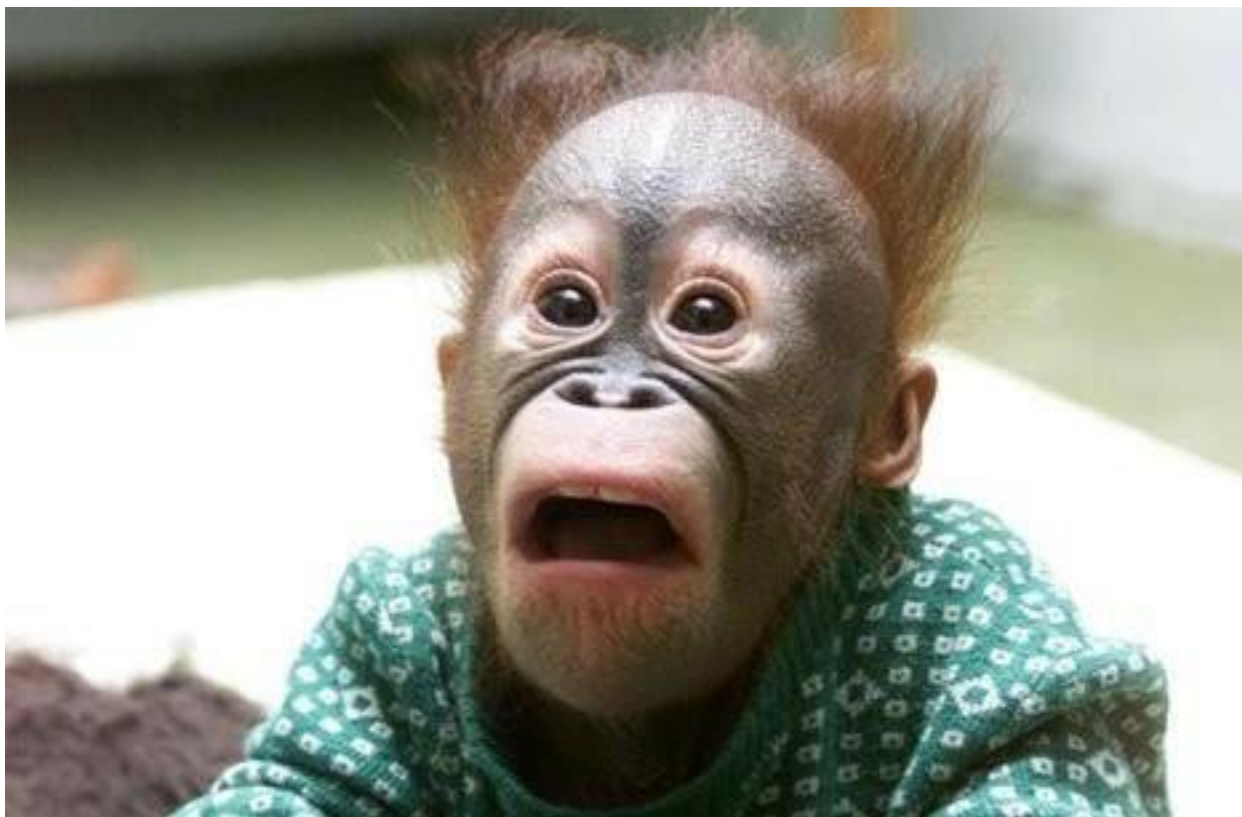
- Too much information
- Too little information
- Inaccurate information
- Disorganization
- Structural problems

Thoughts/Emotions Upon Receipt of Rejected Manuscripts

- Shocked
- Stressed
- Exhausted

Shocked

I can't believe they didn't like my work!



Stressed!

*I don't have the time right now to
rewrite the paper*



Exhausted

This process is wearing me out!



Strategies for Resubmission

- Read the comments carefully and allow yourself a few days to “grieve”
- Remember that the comments are meant to be constructive with an aim to help create a stronger manuscript
- Put the comments away for a few days
- Evaluate the comments
- Seek guidance from seasoned authors

Suggestions for Revision

- Pay attention to and address the reviewers' concerns
- If the reviewers' comments contradict one another; it suggests that the content is not clear

Suggestions for Revision

- Write a cover letter when resubmitting that explains exactly how you have addressed the reviewers' suggestions, point by point (provide page number, paragraph and sentence for the revisions)
- Highlight changes in the paper
- Meet the resubmission deadline provided by the editor

Suggestions for Revision

- If you do not agree with a suggestion, provide a rationale for why you are not making the suggested change in the cover letter
- If you decide not to resubmit the paper to the same journal, a letter to the editor explaining your decision is professional courtesy

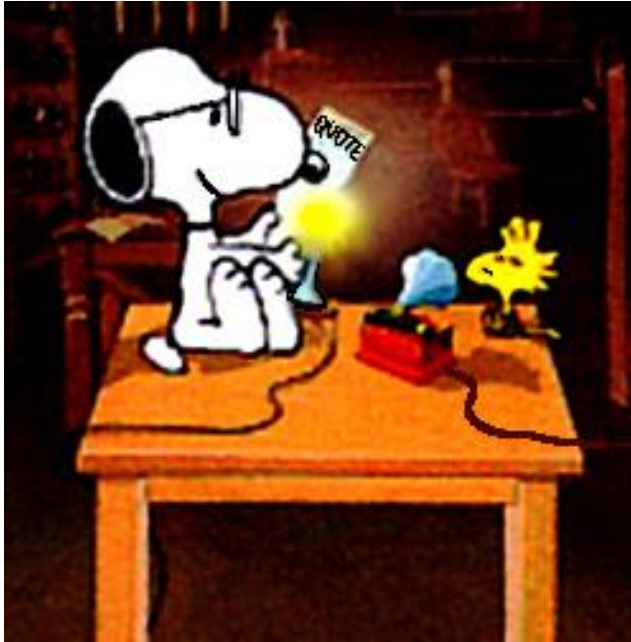
Suggestions for Revision

- Obtain review from seasoned authors before resubmitting
- Be sure your reviewers have copies of the critique along with the revised manuscript



Ethical issues

- Authorships issues
- Duplicate publication – ‘salami slicing’
- Conflict(s) of interest



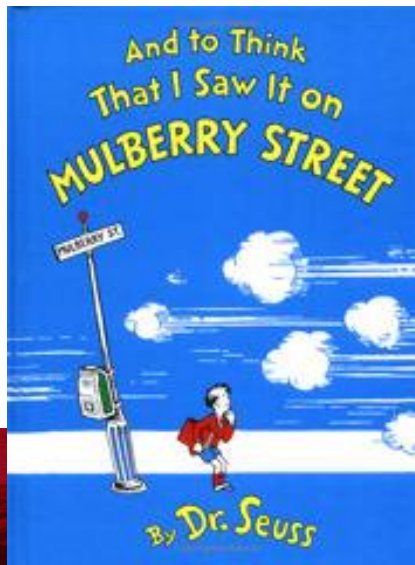
Persist through the “Character-Building Times!”

*"At least I have found 9000 ways
that it won't work."*

Thomas Edison

Persistence is a Key to Success

Theodor S. Geisel wrote a children's book that was rejected by 23 publishers. The 24th publisher sold 6 million copies of the first "Dr. Seuss Book."



Helpful Resources

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Meet the press and succeed! (Brochure that can be obtained by calling 202-463-6930, ext 31)

Blackwell's guide for authors: <http://www.nurseauthor.com/>

Betz, C.L., Smith, K., Melnyk, B.M., & Rickey, T. (2011). Disseminating evidence. In B.M. Melnyk & E. Fineout-Overholt (Eds.) *Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare. A guide to best practice (2nd edition)*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer/ Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Broome, M. (2012). Disseminating findings of intervention studies. In B.M. Melnyk & D. MorrisOn-Beeding. *Designing, conducting, analyzing and funding intervention research*. Philadelphia: Springer Publishing.

Oermann, M.H. (2010). *Writing for publication in nursing (2nd edition)*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.