This presentation is intended to provide an overview of how to prepare manuscripts for publication.

This presentation will highlight some possible pathways of accomplishing the goal.

The guidelines provided in this presentation might help you to write better – it doesn’t guarantee that you will emerge as a good writer from tomorrow.
A manuscript is a **draft of a writer's work**—whether it's a memoir, a novel, a collection of poetry, a children's story, a nonfiction book, or something similar.
Sign posts across the road map

- Read
- Highlight
- Absorb, imbibe, digest, grasp, comprehend
- Classify
- Correlate
- Read...Read...Read...
- Populate the mind
- Write the first draft
- Revise...Revise...Revise – get the feedback - revise
- Choose the journal - prepare as per author instructions
- Submit it the journal (online/offline)
Various categories of contribution

- Research paper
- Letters, short communication, rapid communication
- Review paper
- Perspective, opinion, and commentary
- Clinical trials
- Technical note
- Case studies
- Data-in-brief
- Video
- Book review
Structure of a Research Paper

- Title
- Authors’ name and affiliation
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Conflict of interests
- Supplementary information
Title

✓ What’s in a title?

✓ Clear, concise and self-explanatory

✓ Attract the reader

✓ Reflect what is the work about

✓ Be specific to the application area

✓ Improvement in a particular property?

✓ Avoid abbreviations, trade marks, etc.

✓ Reader should get an idea about the work
Manuscript Titles: How to Capture Readers and Enhance Citations

manuscript within a brief title! Many journals in recent years (including ACS ANM) have introduced keywords as a way to highlight additional features of a paper. We recommend that authors judiciously select keywords, especially those that do not appear in their title, to appeal to a broader audience.

(c) Poorly representative of the content. Sometimes authors select titles with an eye to wider field trends rather than to a manuscript’s specific content in an effort to increase the readership. Such titles are easily spotted, and the corresponding manuscripts are often rejected. One (hypothetical) example: The Conrad group has examined how the molecular-weight distribution in polymer brushes affects their ability to release adherent bacteria in research that specifically
Excerpts from “Manuscript titles: How to capture readers and enhance citations”

▲ “A good title highlights the manuscript’s focus, novelty, short and to the point”

▲ “Two essential features - nanomaterial studied and its targeted application. Everything else is typically superfluous”

▲ “Papers with short titles are more cited than those with long title”

▲ “Use of “Controlled release” for drug delivery – misleading”

▲ “Inkjet Printing of Silver Nanowires for Stretchable Heaters”

▲ “Ammonia Borane Nanospheres for Hydrogen Storage”

▲ “Interpenetrating Nanofibrous Composite Membranes for Water Purification”

▲ “Silver-Nanoparticle-Mediated Therapies in the Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer”
Shaken and stirred: Random organization reduces viscosity and dissipation in granular suspensions

Christopher Ness,1*

The viscosity of suspensions of granular particles is strongly influenced by interparticle contacts. Reduction in the number of such contacts, either by changing particle shape or by a reduction in particle-particle interactions, can lead to a substantial reduction in the effective viscosity. In this work, we present a superimposed shear oscillation protocol that demonstrates a considerable (>50%) decrease in effective viscosity for a randomly packed bed. In this protocol, a superimposed shear oscillation toward an out-of-equilibrium jammed state results in a decrease in effective viscosity. This effect is robust and reproducible and can be used to flow enhancement and to control the particle concentration in granular suspensions.
Die hard: Are cancer stem cells the Bruce Willises of tumor biology?

Ákos Fábián, Márk Barok, György Vereb, János Szöllősi

First published: 02 December 2008

https://doi.org/10.1002/cyto.a.20690
Authors’ Name and Affiliation

- Sequence of authors depends on the relative contribution with supervisor at the end
- Authors belonging to different institutions – mark them with superscript (a, b, c) or (1, 2, 3)
- Avoid the use of title, designation and degree, unless and otherwise warranted by the journal/publisher
- **Corresponding author** should be clearly marked with an asterisk (*)
- Include the e-mail address, Telephone/Fax number of the corresponding author in the foot note
- Authors who have contributed equally should be marked with a special character – mention it in the foot note
Professor: Why it is so long to complete the paper?
Researcher: I was busy typing down the names of all coauthors

Image courtesy: www.VALDO.com
Sequencing of author name and associated credits is highly important in multi-authored papers. Journals are thinking to do away with authorship and focus on contributorship.
Transparency in authors’ contributions and responsibilities to promote integrity in scientific publication

Marcia K. McNutt, Monica Bradford, Jeffrey M. Drazen, Brooks Hanson, Bob Howard, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Véronique Kiermer, Emilie Marcus, Barbara Kline Pope, Randy Schekman, Sowmya Swaminathan, Peter J. Stang, and Inder M. Verma

Edited by Karen S. Cook, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, and approved January 18, 2018 (received for review August 30, 2017)

www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1715374115

Copyright – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan

Source: PNAS, 115 (2018) 2557-2560
Author Contributions - Types of contribution of different authors

- **I.A.J. van Hengel**: Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Writing – Original Draft, Writing – Review & Editing, Visualization, Supervision;
- **F.S.A. Gelderman**: Investigation, Methodology;
- **S. Athanasiadis**: Investigation, Methodology;
- **M. Minneboo**: Investigation, Methodology;
- **H. Weinans**: Writing – Review & Editing;
- **A.C. Fluit**: Resources, Writing – Review & Editing;
- **B.C.J. van der Eerden**: Methodology, Resources, Writing, Review & Editing, Supervision
- **L.E. Fratila-Apachitei**: Conceptualization, Methodology, Resources, Writing – Review & Editing, Supervision;
- **I. Apachitei**: Conceptualization, Methodology, Resources, Writing – Review & Editing, Supervision;
- **A.A. Zadpoor**: Conceptualization, Resources, Writing – Review & Editing, Supervision, Funding Acquisition.
Abstract

- Most commonly read section in a paper
- Should be self-contained with pertinent details (200 words)
- Why this study and What has been studied – salient features
- Briefly state experimental methods and techniques
- Highlight the Major findings
- Conclusions drawn from the study
- Don’t include abbreviations, illustrations, tables, references
- Objectives, highlights and applications – Present tense
- Methodology – Past tense
Keywords

❖ Include 5 to 8 appropriate keywords just below the abstract

❖ Important – part of the metadata - widely used for indexing

❖ Essential words from the title, abstract and full text

❖ Choice of words should facilitate searching

❖ Keywords should be in lower case

❖ Separated by semi-colons and end with a period

❖ Refer author instructions of the journal
Introduction

♣ Introduce the field along with its importance - few lines

♣ Highlight the current state-of-affairs - cite relevant literature

♣ Address major problems yet to be solved and how critical they are towards the development of a process or product

♣ Justify the work clearly – Rationale behind the choice of method/analysis and how the outcome will help solve the problem or improve the process or extend the application?

♣ Limit the usage of words like “novel”, “for the first time”, “paradigm-changing”

♣ Know facts – Present tense; Earlier work – past tense
Peritectic titanium alloys for 3D printing

Pere Barriobero-Vila, Joachim Gussone, Andreas Stark, Norbert Schell, Jan Haubrich & Guillermo Requena

using AM Ti-6Al-4V seat buckles.

A critical issue for acceptance and certification of AM parts is the degree of isotropy of their microstructure derived from the solidification conditions during AM and eventual post-treatments. A deep-rooted drawback during AM of Ti-alloys is
Justification

- Problem or lacuna?

- What is the strategy other researchers have adopted – benefits and limitations

- What is your idea and how you are going to approach?

- Why do you think that your idea might work?

- Clearly specify the hypothesis to be tested

- Objectives – should be well-defined

- Be specific to the application area - biomedical - Vague – Specific application?

- Limit introduction and justification to two A4-size pages
Owing to the complicated thermal history undergone by materials during SLM, namely sharp cycles of steep heating ($\sim 10^6-10^7{^\circ}C \text{s}^{-1}$) and cooling ($>10^3{^\circ}C \text{s}^{-1}$) rates, brittle martensitic microstructures unsuitable for structural applications are usually obtained via diffusionless transformation of parent $\beta$ grains (primary high temperature phase) in the as-built condition of $\alpha + \beta$ Ti alloys. For instance, $\alpha'$ martensite formation in Ti-
Post-thermal and/or thermomechanical treatments are commonly applied to the as-built AM components to improve the strength-ductility trade-off. This can include supertransus or subtransus heat treatments\textsuperscript{14,15}, as well as hot isostatic pressing\textsuperscript{16} inducing formation of stable $\alpha$ and $\beta$ via decomposition of metastable microstructures. Subtransus treatments have limited impact on the microstructure and columnar morphologies.
of $\alpha + \beta$ Ti alloys. For instance, $\alpha'$ martensite formation in Ti-6Al-4V occurs for cooling rates above $\sim 410 ^\circ C \ s^{-1}$\textsuperscript{10}. Though in Ti alloys both $\alpha'$ and the stable $\alpha$ phase present a hexagonal close-packed (hcp) lattice, the low ductility ($< 10\%$) and fracture toughness exhibited by martensitic microstructures upon AM manufacturing is mainly a consequence of high density of defects (e.g., dislocations, twins) present in the $\alpha'$ phase\textsuperscript{11,12}. Differently,
Our approach consists in adding the solute \( \alpha \)-stabilizer La to commercially pure titanium (CP Ti) aiming at altering the regular Burgers-related \( \beta \rightarrow \alpha \) transformation.
New method 'stitches' together rGO sheets into ultra-strong films

A team of researchers from China has reported a novel strategy to 'stitch' together reduced graphene oxide (rGO) sheets to form ultra-strong films. This breakthrough could have significant implications for the development of new materials with improved mechanical properties.

#graphene #nanotech #nanomaterial #nanotechnology #film #films #science #scienceandenvironment #materials #material
Materials and Methods

- Type of materials - metals, chemicals, animals, plant species, microorganisms, etc. and where they were sourced
- Methods of synthesis, process variables and conditions
- Justification for the choice of materials and methods
- Methods of characterization and measurements
- Methods used for data and statistical analysis
- Flow sheets and schematic diagrams (Scheme?)
- Details on new calculation procedure – supplementary
- If the test protocols were described in a previous publication then cite that paper
- Narrate this section in past tense
Schematic representation
Schematic of the multi-step synthesis process of TiO$_2$@NC@MoS$_2$ tubular nanostructures: (I) TiO$_2$ coating; (II) PDA coating; (III) carbonizing and acid etching; and (IV) deposition of MoS$_2$ nanosheets and annealing

*Source: Adv. Mater. 29(37) (2017) Article 1702724*
Schematic representation of the various stages involved in the fabrication of Cu nanowires

Copyright – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan

Schematic illustration of various stages involved in the preparation of flexible electrically conductive KB + HNs + PDMS paper

Copyright – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan

Source: ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.7b09484
Evolutionary tree of the BA.1 and BA.2 strains of the Omicron variant, which are genetically distinct as earlier variants Alpha, Beta, and Gamma are from each other.
Results and Discussion

- Presented together or separately – refer journal style
- Provide illustrations, schematics and tables
- Analyze the data, evaluate the extent of change in properties and interpret the results
- Validate the results, predict new possibilities and propose new mechanisms
- Highlight the major findings
- Provide well-supported opinions with no ambiguity
- Compare and contrast the inferences made with those made by other researchers
- Provide details on the limitations of the study
Do’s and Don’ts in illustrations/photos/tables

- Do not duplicate the data – presentation of the same data both as an illustration and as well as a table is not permitted
- Legends of figures and tables should be self-explanatory
- Use appropriate symbols and colours to represent the data points
- Avoid crowding of data points in the illustration
- Scaling of the axis should be proper – pH: 0 to 15?
- Photographs/SEM/TEM – Include scale bar or known objects like a coin to show the extent of magnification
- Be specific in expressing the conditions – Do not write room temperature (different from India and Canada) – 27 °C
- Use of decimals – Significance? – weight of NaCl: 200.02 g/L
- Include number of measurements, error bars and standard deviation
Presentation of data

Copyright – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan
Presentation of data
Presentation of data

(a, b) FE-SEM; and (c) TEM images of TiO$_2$@NC@MoS$_2$ nanotubes

Presentation of data

Radial cross-sectional SEM images showing different porous structures of biomimetic fibers prepared at different freezing temperatures

Presentation of data

(b) morphology; (c) water contact angle; (d) flexibility; and (e) electric conductivity of flexible electrically conductive KB + HNs + PDMS paper

Source: ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.7b09484
(a) Bouncing-off of water droplets; (b-e) self-cleaning ability; (f-l) Real-time monitoring of electrical conductivity: (f-i) with a few water droplets; (j-l) after total immersion in water

Source: ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.7b09484
Check whether the results are reproducible
“Preparing them for a publication quality photograph.”

Courtesy: www.VALDO.com
Conclusions

- Include all significant findings of the study
- Address practical implications of the findings
- Provide recommendations for future work
- Include applications of the present work to other areas
- Do not rewrite the abstract
- Do not write statements ending with investigated/studied
- Do not write any new statements or comments, which is not part of the study

Summary of findings, implications, limitations – Past tense
Suggestions for future work – Future tense
“Finally, we can drink Coke with a straw.”

Courtesy: www.VALDO.com
Express gratitude to:

- Funding agencies for providing grants and fellowships
- Directors/HOD’s for providing infrastructural facilities, and advanced instrumentation facilities
- Companies for providing free samples/chemicals and for their support in testing
- Technicians for their help/support/guidance in acquiring micrographs or other experimental data
- Scientists/Professors for their help in understanding and interpreting results
- Colleagues for their help in performing the experiments
References

Compile all references cited in the manuscript and place them after the acknowledgement section.

Refer author instructions of the journal for the style and formatting – strictly follow the recommendations.

Cite most recent references (within 5 years); but do not forget to give credit to the original discoveries.

Check and re-check the accuracy of all references.

Use the original source for verification of details.

If permissible

  Include digital object identifier (DOI) number

  Hyperlink (electronic format)
### Reference styles

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Style</th>
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<td>Geology</td>
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</table>
How many references do I need to include, Prof. Jones?

Well...

Optimal # of References

People think you're making things up

People think you're unoriginal

Academic Value

Too few

Too many

# of References

So what's the optimal amount?

"A few."

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM
Self citation
STRUGGLING SCIENTIST
PLEASE CITE MY PAPERS
The art of writing a scientific article

Environmental Kuznets curve in Romania and the role of energy consumption
M Shahbaz, M Mutascu, P Azim - Renewable and Sustainable Energy ..., 2013 - Elsevier
The aim of present study is to probe the dynamic relationship between economic growth, energy consumption and CO2 emissions for period of 1980–2010 in case of Romania. In doing so, ARDL bounds testing approach is applied to investigate the long run cointegration ...

What does industry 4.0 mean to supply chain?
B Tjahjono, C Esplugues, E Ares, G Pelaez - Procedia Manufacturing, 2017 - Elsevier
Abstract The term 'Industry 4.0' was coined to mark the fourth industrial revolution, a new paradigm enabled by the introduction of the Internet of Things (IoT) into the production and manufacturing environment. The vision of Industry 4.0 emphasizes the global networks of ...

Independent and joint effects of perceived corporate reputation, affective commitment and job satisfaction on turnover intentions
U Aliyazik, E Cigerim, K Akin, O Bayram - Procedia-Social and Behavioral ..., 2011 - Elsevier
The concept of corporate reputation has gained a great deal of popularity among business
Supplementary files

- Use of supporting information helps **to save space** as well as to make the article interesting with **more focus on salient features**

- Supporting information is **part of the paper** and it should not be submitted for republication as part of a new paper

- What can be given in supplementary files?

  - Additional data sets, illustrations, tables, derivations
  - Experimental procedures, analytical and spectral data
  - Modelling coordinates and programs
  - Crystallographic information files
  - Movie files and audio clips
  - 3D structures
Supplementary files

- Should be cited in sequence within the main body of text, clearly labelled as "Supporting Information" (e.g., Fig. S1; Table S1)

- All files should have a legend with a clear explanation

- If the data is previously published then it is important to **obtain necessary permissions to reproduce** the same

- Compile all supplementary files as one pdf document

- Supplementary material associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi:10.1016/j.actamat.2020.04.060
Author Statement

What should be written?

- All authors have seen and approved the final version of the manuscript being submitted.
- The authors declare that the above-mentioned article submission is original and it is not being submitted for publication elsewhere.

What should not be written?

We declare that we have provided original data in the manuscript wherever possible to the best of our knowledge.
Data Availability Statement

What to write?

- The raw/processed data required to reproduce these findings can be made available upon request.
- The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

What not to write?

- “The raw/processed data of our research work cannot be shared at any point of time as it is part of an ever ending study?”
Conflict of interest statement

♥ The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper

♥ The authors declare that a patent cooperation treaty (PCT) application has been filled on the surface modified copper powder and the method of production: “Copper, gold, or silver powder and method of manufacturing such powder” with a PCT application number: PCT/EP2019/081541 (Nov. 15, 2019)

♥ DV, AE, and MP were employed by the company Oerlikon AM GmbH. The remaining authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest
Conflict of interest statement

♥ As SPN and RC now work at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and Messer Inc., respectively, it would also be inappropriate for anyone currently affiliated with WPI or Messer to review this work

♥ SPN and JLB are part of the Editorial Board of the journal. To avoid potential conflict of interest, the responsibility for the editorial and peer-review process of this article lies with the journal’s other editors

♥ The authors of this article were removed from the peer review process and did not have, and will not have, any access to confidential information related to the editorial process of this article
Graphical abstract

- Pictorial representation of the salient features of the paper
- Focus on the concept, evaluation and outcome
- Highlight the take-home message of the paper
- Make it colourful and attractive – Promotion to the paper
- Should attract the readers to go thorough the paper
Nanoengineered Ionic-Covalent Entanglement (NICE) Bioinks for 3D Bioprinting

David Chimene, Charles W Peak, James Gentry, James K. Carrow, Lauren M Cross, Eli Mondragon, Guinea B. C Cardoso, Roland Kaunus, and Akhilesh K Gaharwar

ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, Just Accepted Manuscript • DOI: 10.1021/acsami.7b19808 • Publication Date (Web): 20 Feb 2018
Ligand-mediated delivery – tissue specific targeting

Wood Nanotechnology for Strong, Mesoporous, and Hydrophobic Biocomposites for Selective Separation of Oil/Water Mixtures

Qiliang Fu, Farhan Ansari, Qi Zhou, and Lars A. Berglund

ACS Nano, Just Accepted Manuscript • DOI: 10.1021/acsnano.8b00005 • Publication Date (Web): 07 Feb 2018
One-pot hydrothermal synthesis of memory-type carbon dots as multifunctional decoupled inhibitor for metal corrosion

For more information see: Langmuir, 2022, https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acs.langmuir.1c03289
Order of writing

1. Consolidate all illustrations and tables
2. Materials and methods
3. Results
4. Discussions pertaining to the results
5. Conclusions
6. Introduction with justification
7. Abstract, keywords and graphical abstract
8. Acknowledgements
9. References
10. Supplementary information
11. Conflict of interests
Do’s and Don’ts in writing a manuscript

- Only one author should write the entire manuscript. Other authors should read the draft and suggest points to amend. This strategy will help to maintain a uniform style and coherency.

- Check thoroughly for spelling and grammatical errors; check continuity between sentences and paragraphs. There should be one beginning with a continuous flow and one end.

- Maintain uniformity in font type and size (Times New Roman – 12 point); wider margin on all sides (3 cm).

- Abbreviations should be defined on the first use.

- Avoid repetition, spoken abbreviations, chat language and usage of words like “in this paper” “in the present work”.

- Insert page numbers.
What to write and what not to write in each section?

Every word should be there for a reason!

Every sentence should be there for a reason!
What should be the length of a manuscript?

- **Ideal length:** 25 to 40 A4 size pages (double line spacing) including illustrations and tables
- **Abstract:** One paragraph (200 words)
- **Introduction:** Two pages
- **Materials and methods:** 2-3 pages
- **Results:** 6-8 pages
- **Discussion:** 4-6 pages
- **Conclusions:** One paragraph
- **Illustrations:** 6-8; **Tables:** 1-3
- **References:** 20-50 (2-4 pages)
Editing and revising the drafts
Editing and revising the drafts

- Identify where we need to add more points
- Highlight the section(s) which needs to be improved
- Check for any lapse in continuity in sentences/paragraphs
- Do not feel bad that you have to modify the entire paper
- Ask your friends/colleagues to read and get their suggestions for improvement
- Discuss with your supervisor and get the advice on how to make it better
Dos and Don’ts for better writing

✓ Use minimalism to achieve clarity
✓ Limit each paragraph to a single message
✓ Keep it simple, short and direct
✓ Concise, clear sentences are good
✓ Make your writing lively and easier to understand

× Don’t break the thoughts of the reader
× Don’t say the same thing in three different ways
× Avoid placing equations in the middle of sentences

Source: “How to write a great science paper” – Some tips by Novelist Cormac McCarthy, Nature, 26th September, 2019
Why we should publish our research findings?

- Dissemination of knowledge
- Other researchers can make further progress
- The lacuna in a work is the starting point of another work
- Recognition in our network
- To get funding
- Career benefits
Oranges also follow the law of Gravity!

Low Impact Paper

Courtesy: www.VALDO.com
Quantity does not equal quality: Scientific principles cannot be sacrificed
Submitting a manuscript

Author

Editor

Associate editor
Submitting a manuscript

- Do not rush submitting your article for publication
- Carefully re-read the manuscript several times
- Share the manuscripts with your colleagues and other researchers in your network and get their feedback
- Get approval from all co-authors
- Choose the most appropriate journal
  - Read the aims and scope of the journal
  - Glance at what type of articles are being published
  - Who are the target audience?
- Write a cover letter highlighting the importance of the work and suitability of the work for the chosen journal
- Submit the manuscript online to only one journal at a time
Unique digital identifier

DISTINGUISH YOURSELF IN THREE EASY STEPS

ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between you and your professional activities ensuring that your work is recognized. Find out more

1. REGISTER  Get your unique ORCID identifier Register now! Registration takes 30 seconds.

2. ADD YOUR INFO  Enhance your ORCID record with your professional information and link to your other identifiers (such as Scopus or ResearcherID or LinkedIn).

3. USE YOUR ORCID ID  Include your ORCID identifier on your Webpage, when you submit publications, apply for grants, and in any research workflow to ensure you get credit for your work.
Importance of cover letter

A well written cover letter makes you win the impression of the journal Editor. The paper does the rest of it.
Maximizing Success: Writing the Cover Letter

Together with the conclusions section of your paper, the cover letter is one of the first things the editor will see, so make it count!

• Why is this topic important?
• Why are these results significant?
• What is the key result? (breakthrough!)
• Why is it an advance on previous work?
• Why are you submitting to this journal?
• Why will this journal’s readers read it?
• Provide reviewer suggestions

Tip: Keep the letter as concise as possible – the longer it is, the easier it becomes to overlook something important.
What the editors are looking for? (first look)

After the initial check for scope and length is done, the manuscript is examined more closely:

- Difference to prior work?
- Important to researchers in this field?
- Is the novelty high enough?
- Important to the whole readership?

„Publishing space is limited – choose a journal whose readership will be keen to see your results!“

Courtesy: Dr. John Uhlrich
Editor: Looks like a routine work. What is the novelty in your work?
Me: This is not a routine work. This is the novelty in our work

Concept and captions – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan
Reviewing process
“We’re implementing a new ‘double-blind’ peer-review process.”
Our expert reviewers are very keen to check whether the results are indeed reproducible.

Image courtesy: www.VALDO.com
Publishing a paper - It is always a tug of war

Authors

Reviewers
How to convince an editor to accept your paper quickly

Ronald A. Hites

*O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, United States*
“No one is more hated than he/she who seriously reviews manuscripts”

- Caption by T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan
Manuscript - During submission

Manuscript – After reviewer’s comments

Concept and imagination – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan
Caption – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan

Rejection letters

Researcher
What to do if a paper gets rejected

- None of us will be in a mental state to accept rejections
- Do not get discouraged. Take it cool and think what next?
- Rejections always need not reflect the quality of the paper
- Submit it to another journal, after revising it suitably
- Read the comments, discuss with the supervisor
- Identify how you can improve the quality of the paper
- Carry out additional experiments, if needed
Revision

- Based on the comments and recommendations of the reviewers, the editor provides an opportunity for the authors to “revise and resubmit” the manuscript.

- Carefully read the comments of the reviewers and provide a point-by-point response to all the comments, politely.

- If any additional work is suggested by the reviewers, then carry out the work without fail.

- Highlight modifications made in text/illustrations/tables.

- Prepare a response sheet and clearly address what are the corrections/modifications made in the revised manuscript.
Revision

- In case of any disagreement with the reviewer’s remark, it should be justified properly.

- Submit the revised manuscript along with the response sheet strictly by the deadline provided by the editor.

- If more time is warranted to carry out any additional work as suggested by the reviewer then write to the editor and request for more time for submission.

- Revised manuscript will also be sent again for review. Prepare the revised manuscript with at most care.
Concept and caption: T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan

Revision
Responding to the reviewers

❖ What you want to say:
  ✗ No one knows the answer to that question

❖ What you should say:
  ✓ This is a valid question, and we are actively pursuing the answer in our lab.
  ✓ This is a valid and important question, and we are curious what the results would be. However, we are unaware of any studies that provide the answer.
Responding to the reviewers

❖ What you want to say:
  ✗ We’re not saying we proved anything – that’s just our hypothesis!

❖ What you should say:
  ✓ We agree that this explanation is speculative at this time, and we have edited the text to state that our conclusion is only suggested by our results.
  ✓ Note: you will need to make some changes to the text to further emphasize that you were stating a hypothesis, even if you felt it was obvious before.
Responding to the reviewers

❖ What you want to say:
   ✗ You didn’t even read what we wrote!

❖ What you should say:
   ✓ We did not intend to indicate [insert mistaken assertion by reviewer here], and we have therefore altered the text to specify that [insert correct conclusion here].
   ✓ Note: As before, you’ll have to change some wording.
Responding to the reviewers

❖ What you want to say:
  ✗ You are being so picky about grammar or formatting!

❖ What you should say:
  ✓ We apologize for this error, and we have corrected the text as suggested.
Responding to the reviewers

- **What you want to say:**
  - ❌ My English writing skills are better than yours; why are you complaining about my typos?

- **What you should say:**
  - ✓ Our manuscript has been reviewed by a colleague and revised to improve readability.
Responding to the reviewers

❖ What you want to say:
  ❗ That experiment would take forever!

❖ What you should say:
  ✓ The suggested experiment is interesting and would provide additional information about..., but we feel that it falls outside the scope of this study.
Responding to the reviewers

❖ What you want to say:
   ✗ You just didn’t understand what we wrote!

❖ What you should say:
   ✓ Several statements that we made earlier were more ambiguous than we intended, and hence we have adjusted the text to make it clearer
The pathway of manuscript writing
Publishing addiction: a behavioural disorder with specific characteristics

- By reading an academic journal, you are already at high risk of publishing addiction (PA)

- How to identify?
  - An urgent desire to keep publishing
  - getting emotional kicks from various publishing stages
  - devoting excessive time to the habit
  - imagining that your articles are important
  - deluding yourself that your articles are actually read
  - blaming others when your articles get rejected
  - frequently checking citations and H-index on Google Scholar
  - wish to start your own journal

Source: British Journal of Dermatology, 184 (2021) 338–339
Before start writing
the manuscript
Concept and caption – T.S.N. Sankara Narayanan

After completing
the manuscript
“That’s all Folks!”
Thank you