

## Tips for Getting Published in Peer Reviewed Journals

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Having been in academia, research, and an editor for many years, there is some wisdom I can share. I understand the push to get published. The highest level of publishing is data driven primary research in a peer-reviewed journal. But there are more opportunities outside of data-driven. Find the right journal for your field. Explore several journals, and make sure to read several issues in each journal that looks promising. Pay close attention to both the content and style of the journal. Some journals will be academic and formal, and others may be more practice oriented. Pick the appropriate journal for the topic and the audience. Conversely, think outside the box. Information from your specialty is valuable outside of your field. Think how to apply your wisdom to other populations, theories, or genres. For example, if you are an expert in depression, how could your knowledge be applied in a journal about cancer or pregnancy? What wisdoms can you share?

Make sure that your writing is clear and direct. Follow a logical structure appropriate to the form and content of the work. Have colleagues review and critique the paper before submission. If collaborating, have all co-authors agree on the order of authors prior to submitting. Get the agreement in an email related to how much work is contributed by each, and the order of publication to save headaches later.

Follow the submission guidelines carefully. Keep the paper within length requirements, and format the paper and references appropriately. Consult the proper style guides required by the journal. If it asks for APA, then submit it in APA. It's worth the time to format and reduces the rejection rate even before peer review. Keep strictly to deadlines, and be prompt in your response to requests for changes. I suggest getting the changes back to the editor with 5 days. If they haven't read the article in two weeks, they are more likely to read it as if reading the first time and find more problems with it. Five days. Really.

Be prepared to revise your work, no matter how polished it may be already. It is important that the paper be a good fit for the journal audience, and this can require careful editing. When the paper is a good fit for the journal, it is easier to make the case for the importance of your paper to the field of study. This is your central selling point. Peer reviewers always suggest changes; they are expected to find ways to improve even a wonderful manuscript.

Be prepared to revise your paper based on reviewer comments and feedback. Virtually all papers require cycles of revision to one degree or another after submission. Address all reviewer comments – it is acceptable to disagree, just don't quibble over minor changes.

Patience and perseverance are required to publish in academic journals. It may take several tries before publishing in higher-tier journals. Journals with high impact factors only select a small percentage of the articles that are submitted. The process of revision can be time consuming, and the lead time before publication can be frustratingly long. Plan for two years from acceptance to publication. If it is less than that, bonus.

Writing book reviews can be a good way to get published. While book reviews are not peer-reviewed they still give you the opportunity to get your name and your institution's name out there, and in a peer-reviewed journal. Some universities recognize book reviews as a valuable part of the publishing spectrum. There is a steady demand for reviews across a broad spectrum of subjects. And you get a free book. Notice when journals have book reviews. Contact the book review editor and ask for a list of current available books.

Finally, don't be afraid to contact the editor. Tell them about your research or idea, ask if they would have an interest in your paper. Offer to do peer review, which can be documented on your CV. Ask what papers they are looking for in upcoming issues, and develop a literature review and implications for practice papers.

I encourage you to reach out with your articulate and creative writing talents. Disseminate your research, thoughts, theory, and implications for practice or life. Share your insight.

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