



**MARCO
POLO**

How to write a Research Paper

<https://www.wikihow.com/Publish-a-Research-Paper>



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Strengthening Your Submission



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Give your paper a clear vision.



Good journal articles usually get straight to the point and remain there the whole way through. Establish what exactly your paper explores/ investigates/ accomplishes right from the start, and make sure that every subsequent paragraph builds on this vision. Make a strong, clear statement of this vision in your thesis statement. Compare the following weak vs. strong statements:

- “This paper explores how George Washington’s experiences as a young officer may have shaped his views during difficult circumstances as a commanding officer.”
- “This paper contends that George Washington’s experiences as a young officer on the 1750s Pennsylvania frontier directly impacted his relationship with his Continental Army troops during the harsh winter at Valley Forge.”



Narrow your focus.



Clear visions can also be grand visions, but journal articles don't lend themselves to thorough examinations of large-scale topics. Scholars who are revising content from a thesis or dissertation often struggle with this element; you need to be able to strip away (or at least significantly dial back) things like background information, literature reviews, and methodological discussions for a journal article. This is especially true for younger scholars who are breaking into the field. Leave the grand (yet still only 20-30 page) explorations to more established scholars.



Write a top-notch abstract.



The abstract is the first impression the reviewers will get of your work, so you need to make it count. Make sure there are absolutely no typos or unnecessary elements; you'll only have around 300 words to work with. Be bold in your claims and original in your approach, but don't over-sell what your article actually provides. Your abstract should make people eager to start reading the article, but never disappointed when they finish the article.

Get as many people as you can to read over your abstract and provide feedback before you submit your paper to a journal.





Choosing the Right Journal for Submission



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Familiarize yourself with potential publications.



Be aware of the research already published and the current questions and studies in your field. Pay special attention to how other research papers in your field are written: the format, the type of articles (quantitative studies versus qualitative ones, primary research, review of existing papers), the writing style, the subject matter, and the vocabulary.

- Read academic journals related to your field of study.
- Search online for published research papers, conference papers, and journal articles.
- Ask a colleague or professor for a suggested reading list.



Familiarize yourself with potential publications.



Each publication has its own audience and tone of writing. Decide, for instance, if your research paper would fit better in a journal that is highly technical and meant only for other scholars, or a journal that is more general in nature for a broader audience.

“Fit” is critical here — the most renowned journal in your field might not be the one best suited to your specific work. At the same time, though, don’t sell yourself short by assuming your paper could never be good enough for that top-shelf publication.



Keep the circulation or exposure of the journal in mind.



Once you've narrowed down your list of potential submission sites, do a little digging to find out how widely-read and widely-cited articles in those journals seem to be. Greater exposure for your work will be a definite benefit, especially when you're trying to make a name for yourself early in your career. However, always prioritize peer-reviewed journals — in which field scholars anonymously review submitted works. This is the basic standard for scholarly publishing.

You can increase your readership dramatically by publishing in an open access journal. As such, it will be freely available as part of an online repository of peer-reviewed scholarly papers.



The submission process

- Ask a colleague or professor to review your research paper
- Revise your paper based on your reviewers' recommendations
- Prepare your manuscript according to your chosen journal's requirements.
- Submit your article when you feel it's ready to go.
- Don't panic when you get the journal's initial response.
- Embrace reviewer comments as constructive criticism.
 - Do not get over-attached to your original submission.
 - Don't meekly follow reviewer comments that you feel are off the mark.
- Keep trying to get your paper published.
 - Remember, a rejected paper doesn't necessarily equal a bad paper.
 - Move on to your second-choice journal for submission.



My recommendations

- Invite a co-author for each of your papers
- Look for international cooperation.
- Look for people who can present for you in conferences and offer to do the same.
- Select presentation opportunities, which do have journals attached.
- Do not give up easily on a topic.
- Do not insist on a specific journal.
- Involve specialists on methodology, if you are not good in methodology yourself.
- Book publications are interesting alternatives to journals.

