

2020

Journal Article Writing and Publishing

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Editor in Chief

Language Learning & Technology



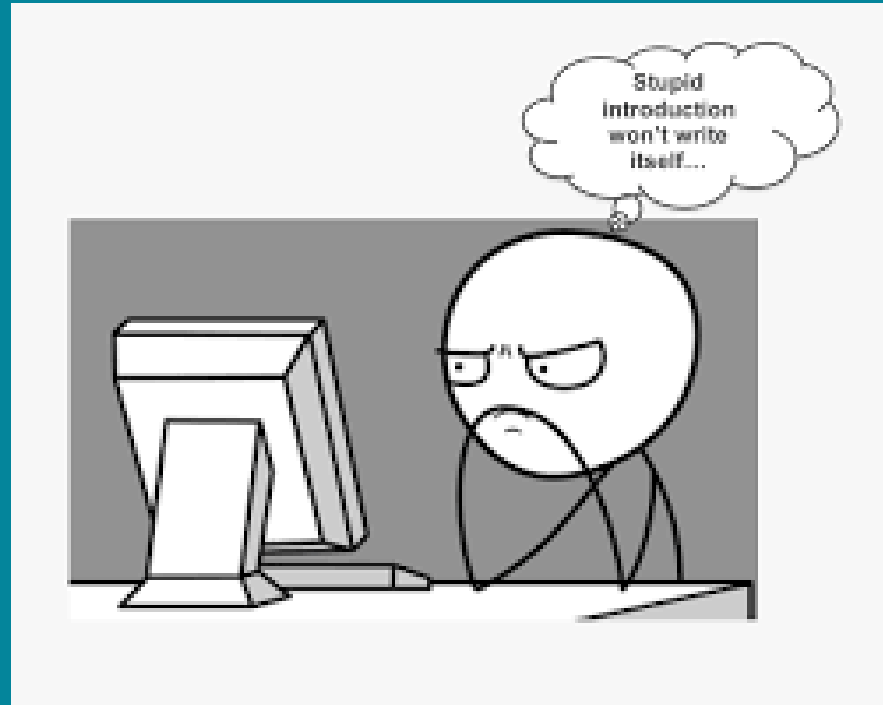


1. Select an Appropriate Journal

Audience, content, journal requirements

Select an Appropriate Journal

- Audience: Who will be interested in your paper?
- Content: Is your content suitable for the journal you selected?
- Journal Scope & Requirements: have you
 - Read Guidelines for Contributors?
 - Browsed through past issues?

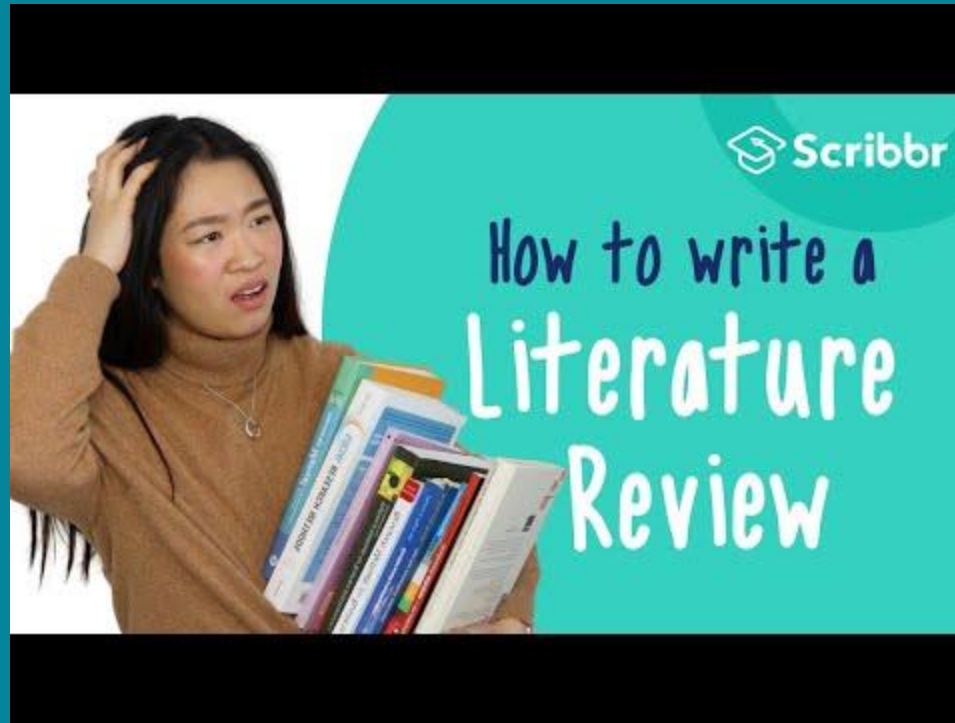


2. Draft an Introduction (3 Items)

“Problem,” Importance, “Solution”

Draft an Introduction w/ 3 Items

- What is the “problem”/”question”?
- Why is this important? (Situate your study in the field; include the theoretical framework for your study and how you investigate the issue.)
- What is a possible “solution”/”answer”?



3. Limit the Literature Review

Synthesis of what is known; Relevance; Gap

Limit the Literature Review

- What do we already know? What does theory tell us?
- What are the different sub-topics involved in the RQs?
- Do I go beyond just a list/summary of previous work and synthesize the literature?
- Where is the gap in what we know?



4. Succinct Research Questions

Clear questions that your data can answer

Succinct Research Questions

- Clearly state your overarching question & possibly break into sub-questions.
- Make sure the questions are focused and specific.
- Make sure that your data can (and do) answer the questions.
- Include underlying assumptions and hypotheses, e.g., “based on previous research, it was expected that ...”

THE EXPERIMENT



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5. Thoroughly Describe Methodology

Participants, context, data collection, data analysis

Thoroughly Describe Methodology

- Who are the participants?
- What is the context in which the study took place?
- What kind of data did you collect, how was it collected, and why (i.e., provide a ***rationale*** for the methodology used)?

Thoroughly Describe Methods (2)

- Provide details of the materials, instruments, and interventions, and especially how learning was “measured.”
- When comparing 2 groups, clarify that both groups were similar before the “treatment(s).”
- Provide details of how data will be analyzed.



6. Report on the Results

Factual data, no interpretation

Report on the Results

- Simply provide actual data, e.g., what was in the (pre- and post-) tests.
- Provide adequate description of the results, not just the statistics.
- Explain the validity of the instruments/data analyses used.
- Don't try to analyze or interpret data (yet).



7. Analyze Results & Connect to Lit

Interpret your data, connect to previous research

Analyze Results & Connect to Lit

- Provide clear and thorough analyses of the results.
- Try to interpret what the data mean, especially if they are surprising or unexpected.
- Connect your results to previous literature (i.e., refer back to key studies in the Lit Review that your study corroborates or refutes).

A well-written conclusion should restate and answer all the research questions.

8. Conclude with Your Contribution

What is new about your contribution?

Conclude with Your Contribution

- In order to be published in high impact journals, in the conclusion section, state how the research and results
 - contribute new knowledge to the field (or contradict existing literature),
 - are applicable, relevant and extendable to other contexts,
 - pose new questions for future research.



9. Last Step: Write an Abstract

Be brief, hit the highlights

Last Step: Write an Abstract

- May be the last thing you do.
- Briefly state the specific question that is unknown.
- Briefly describe the context of your study, design of your study.
- Briefly explain your results and how they add new knowledge.

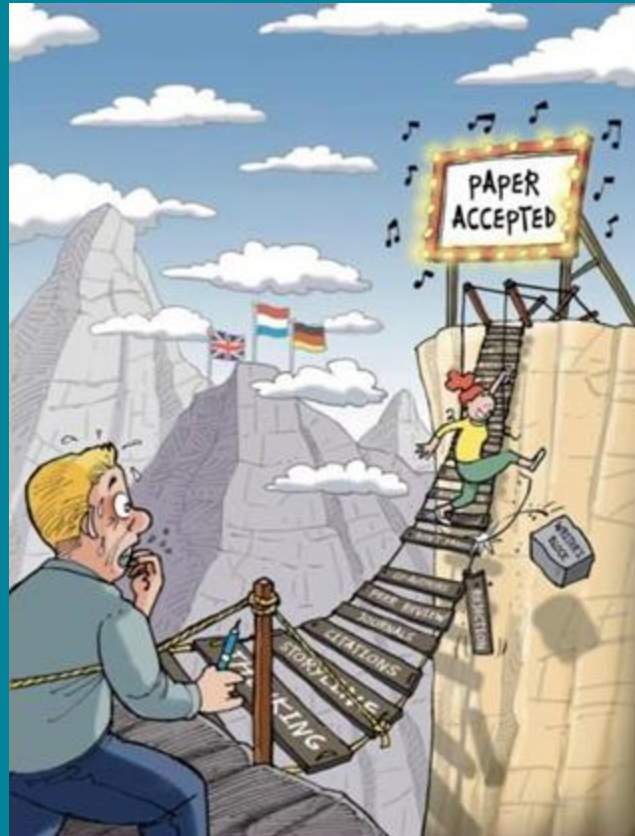


10. Submit Your Polished Article

Don't be sloppy!

Submit your Polished Article

- Ask a colleague/friend to:
 - read and tell you where transitions are needed,
 - edit for Academic English.
- Carefully proofread and adhere to Style Guidelines of the journal.



After Receiving a Decision

Take a deep breath!

After Receiving a Decision

- If the journal asks you to Revise & Resubmit (with many suggestions), do NOT despair, this is a good sign!
- Put the review aside for a few days, then revisit the comments with an open mind.
- If you follow the reviewers' suggestions, your revised version will undoubtedly be much improved!