

Ask the Editor!

Secrets to Success in Getting Past the Editor's Desk

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1:30 – 2:30



2001 - Present



Interdisciplinary



Journal Metrics

Impact factor 1.4

Ranking: Sociology 105 of 149

Ranking: Political Science 122 of 187

Journal Citation Report

Tips Article Acceptance

Getting past the
Editors Desk

25 – 80%
rejected at the desk





Misses the target

POOR FIT

Outside scope or mission of the journal

Things-to-do

journal web site

- mission
- Search journal key words
- Scan a few issues
- read – skim articles

DO SOME HOMEWORK

Strong Abstract – gateway to reviewers & readers



Reviewer comment

Poor abstract
Poor paper

Clear Writing

Don't throw together last minute

ABSTRACT

Rare side effects of
This study confirms the
relationship between
the study and the
effect is the effectiveness of the
design of this study appeared in
scipy related to limited benefits
on closer examination we found that
this treatment prevents.

Does the
study the
to be re



Include

- Purpose
- Method
- Key findings
- Take-away

Avoid

- Acronyms & Jargon
- Convoluted sentences
- Obvious conclusion

(more research needed)

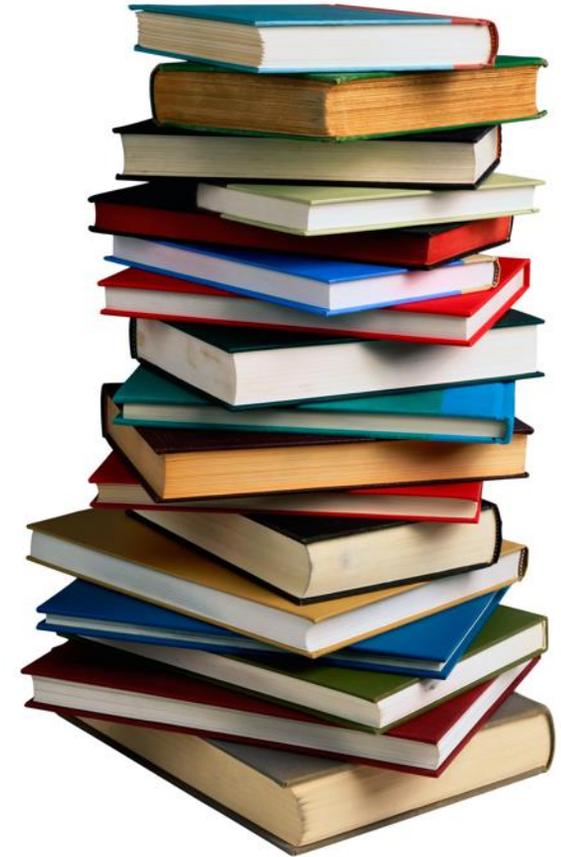


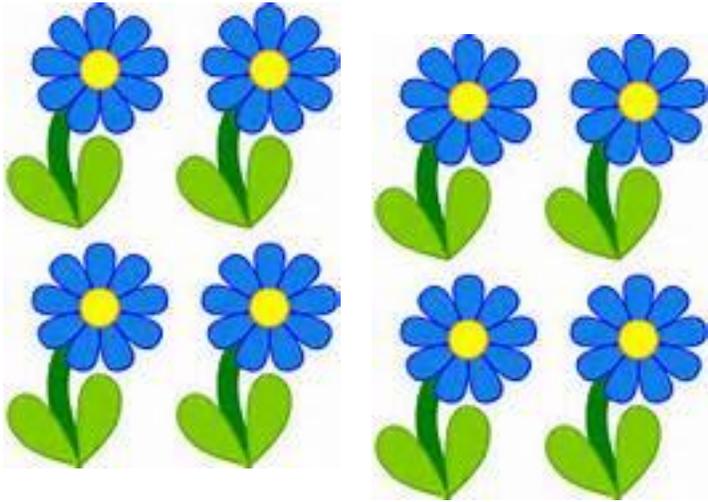
Introduction

- Big Picture
- State purpose or aim early
- Compelling Case for research question
- Strongest Writing

Bibliography

- Overall Quality. - weak bib
- Journal Articles recent older okay
- Find Reviewers

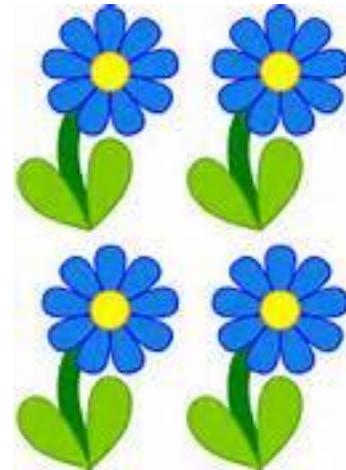




Methodology

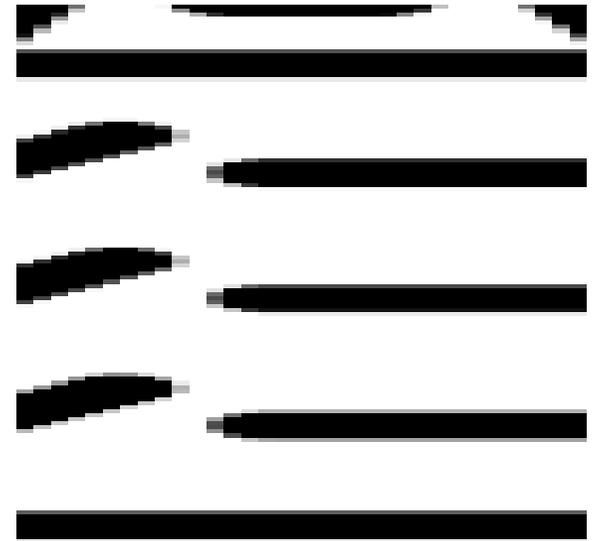
Enough Information

Imagine **how to Replicate**



Make the document **easy to skim**

- ✓ Clear abstract
- ✓ Purpose or aim easy to find
- ✓ Methodology makes sense for purpose
- ✓ Alignment between hypotheses and operationalization of variables
- ✓ Easy to navigate – subheadings helpful
- ✓ Charts and tables easy to skim (important info self contained)
- ✓ Findings aligned with purpose
- ✓ Contribution to knowledge clear and compelling



Quality Threshold



Poor Writing
Tired ideas
Lacks Coherence
Limited generalizability



Welcome Contributors

PSYCHOLOGY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SOCIOLOGY
POLITICAL SCIENCE
SOCIAL WORK
EDUCATION
PHILOSOPHY
PUBLIC POLICY OR ADMINISTRATION
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE
HISTORY



I love to see Texas State Manuscripts

References and Additional Resources

Hall, J. L., Hatcher, W., McDonald III, B. D., Shields, P., & Sowa, J. E. (2019). The art of peer reviewing: Toward an effective developmental process. *Journal of Public Affairs Education, 25*(3), 296-313.

Nowell, B., & Albrecht, K. (2019). A reviewer's guide to qualitative rigor. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 29*(2), 348-363.

Shields, P. M. and Whetsell, T. (2014). Doing Practical Research and Publishing in Military Studies. In Soeters, J., Shields, P. M., & Rietjens, S. J. H. (Eds.) *Routledge handbook of research methods in military studies*. pp. 310-325. London: Routledge.

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