

# Publishing in Academic Journals

## Some Helpful Tips from an Experienced Editor



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# Overview of Presentation

1. Manuscript Review Process
2. Editors Perspective
3. Editors Desk
4. General Tips
5. To Do -- Before submit
6. To Do – R&R
7. Keys to Success
8. Discoverability
9. Assessment Matrix



# Double Blind Peer Review



Promotes Fairness in Process

# Stage 1

- Manuscript arrives
- Editor's Review  
Reject 40- 60%
- Find Reviewers





## Stage 2

- Send out for review  
2-4 reviewers
- Reviews in
- Reviewers assessment

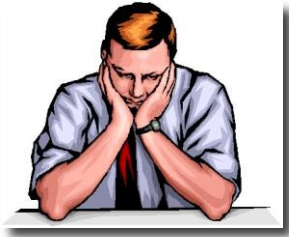


# Stage 3

## First Round Decision



- Accept    Very rare (1 in 100)



- Reject    (1 in 2)
- Revise and Resubmit  
(most common)



Persistence



# Stage 4 +++

- R&R decision, comments sent to author
- Revised Manuscript and letter with explanation arrives
- Re-review Re-review (could be 2 - 4 rounds)
- Decision - Accept/Reject
- If Accept publisher takes over





# Editors Perspective



Scholars perspective



# Steward or Caretaker Role





## **Impact Factor**

measures the average  
number of citations  
to recent published articles



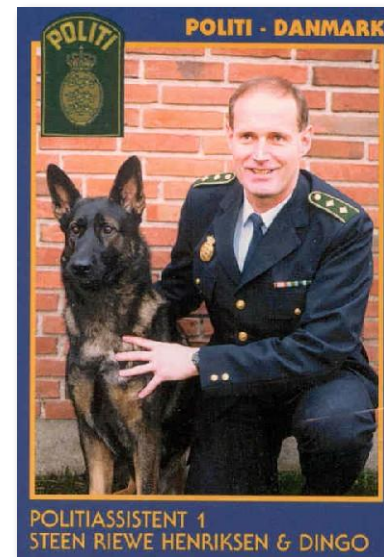
# Most Precious Asset



Reviewer time

# Editor as Coach and Cop

Improve the manuscript



Make sure poor material gets caught

# Tips Article Acceptance

Getting past the  
Editors Desk





## **POOR FIT**

Outside scope or mission of the journal



Audience --  
Scholars/Policy Makers  
International & Interdisciplinary

AVOID

- Purely Military topics (strategy, tactics)
  - Purely International Relations Topics
- If audience is military leadership of a particular country
  - Lots of country specific acronyms

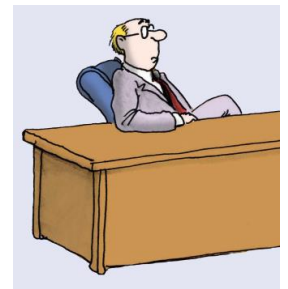


# Strong Abstract

Reviewer comment



Poor abstract  
Poor paper





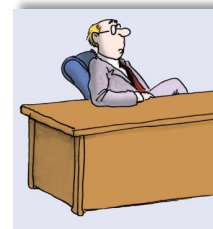


# ABSTRACT

## Include

- Purpose
- Method
- Key findings
- Take-away



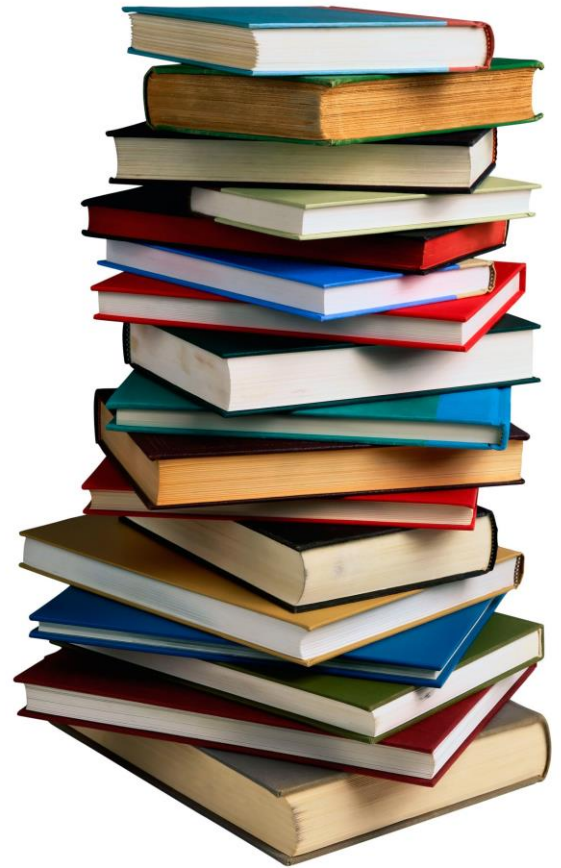


# Introduction

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

# Bibliography

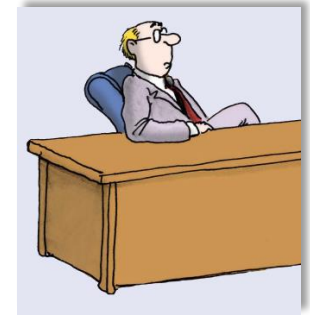
Overall Quality  
Cites to AF&S  
Find Reviewers



# Easy to Navigate

- Clear logical subheadings
- Tables – Stand alone quality





Inadequate sample size  
(7 interviews, 2 focus groups @  
university Y)

# Quality Threshold



Poor Writing  
Tired ideas  
Lacks Coherence



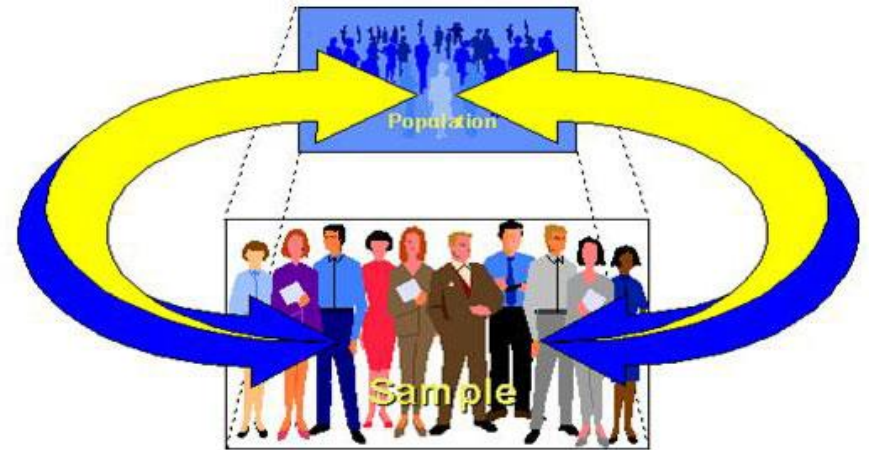




To ensure meets quality threshold



Strong  
External Validity  
Broadly Defined

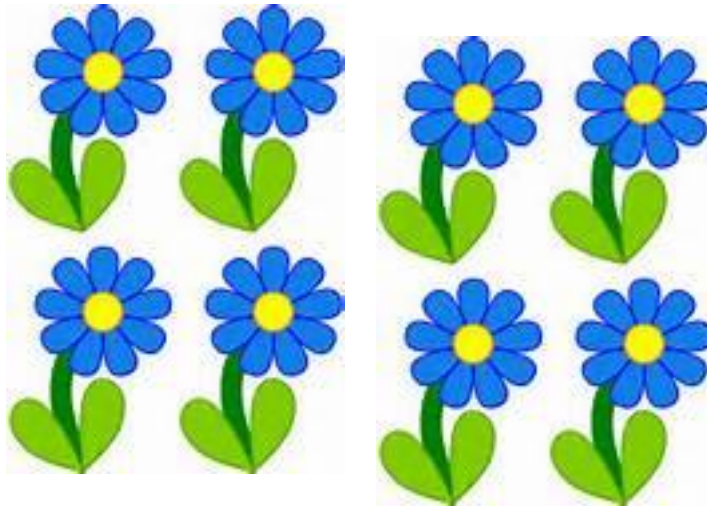


Survey Research

Case Studies    multiple countries

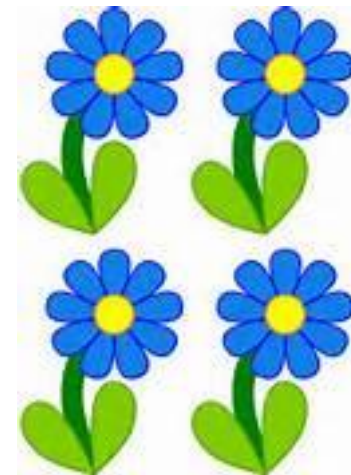
Theoretical    analytical generalizability

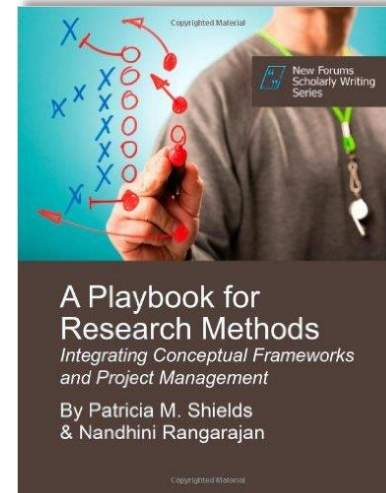




Enough Information

Imagine **how to Replicate**





## State Hypotheses in testable form

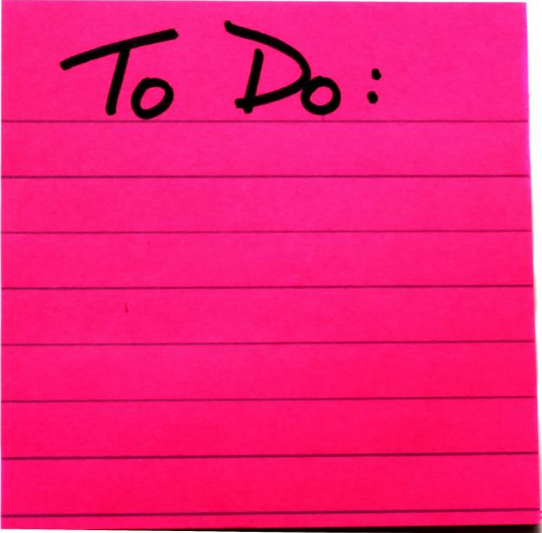
Does Hypothesis connect to research purpose/question?  
Does the evidence collected test the hypothesis?

e.g., A is **necessary** for mission effectiveness



# Do Data and Claims match?

- Inappropriate generalization
- Recognize Alternative Hypotheses



To Do:

Before you send it out

To Do:



Cite the Journal!!!!



# Strategize the best fit journals

What did you cite?

What is journal's quality threshold?

Have they published articles on similar topics?

Preferred Methodology?



**End** with a plan and a ranking of journals



*To do list*

**Revise & Resubmit Decision**

*To do list*



Get control of emotions





Open minded Creative Thinking

# Revise & Resubmit Explanation Letter

- Organized
- Thoughtful
- Disagree OK
  - good reason



# Additional





- Don't take it personally (key test how you deal with first rejection)
- Try again (use comments from reviewers)





- Share your work widely – present at conferences
- Conference Papers/Syllabi on Academia.edu, Institutional Repository, Research Gate

# Cultivate Collaborators



No down side to “Good” co-author(s)

# Two Personal Rules for Successful Scholarship



1. The only good dissertation is a completed dissertation.
2. Better in a library than a file cabinet.



# Discoverability

## Optimizing Article For Search Engines







## EXTRA ATTENTION

- Key Words
- Abstract
- Title

ResearchGate



academia.edu  
follow research

Google  
Scholar

My Citations

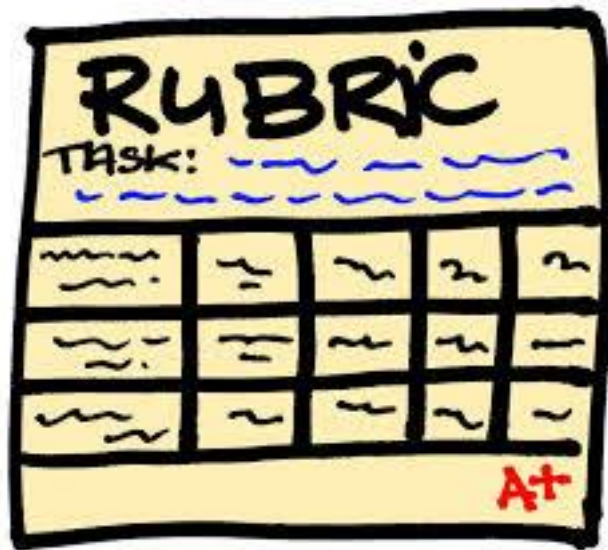


Wikipedia



Incentives

# Useful Manuscript Assessment Tool



Structure

Grammar/Punctuation

Content

Paragraphs

Use of Scholarly Literature

Audience

# Tools for Writing Excellent Papers

American Society for Public Administration  
[Student Summit](#)

March 8, 2015  
12:45 – 1:45

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Tools – cover  
This workshop

1. Conceptual Frameworks
2. Project Management