

Writing Strategies

Cover Page and Cover Letter

- **Prepare a perfect cover page and an abstract**
 - Do not mention when a paper was first written and when it was revised
 - Eliminate errors in the cover page and the abstract.
- **Devote half the writing time to the introduction and conclusion**
- **Get their attention early**
 - Provide evidence of why it is interesting (i.e., why it should be published) in the introduction.
 - If the referees don't like a paper, they begin to look for reasons to justify why the paper should be rejected.

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Writing Strategies

Introduction

- **The introduction should be two pages or less**
 - Shorten it to 2 pages or 1/6 of the paper, whichever is less.
- **Discuss real world examples**
 - Providing citations, statistics, or anecdotes of real world examples.
 - Then the referee cannot say the paper is uninteresting, the most common reason for rejection.
- **Imitate skillful writers**
 - Observe how other successful writers introduce their topic, cite literature, and get on with their task.
 - Imitate their words and phrases, and modify them to suit your purpose.

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Writing Strategies

Introduction

- **Do not plagiarize**
 - "Plagiarize" means to "steal and pass off as one's own (the ideas or words of another)."
 - Do not copy, but summarize the contributions of other writers in your own words.
 - Mention the cited author with year of publication in the text and give the exact source in the reference section.
- **Do not use "I"**
 - "The paper achieves...." sounds softer and more humble than "I did this."
 - Avoid starting a paragraph with I.

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Writing Strategies

Introduction

- **Treat others generously**
 - When mentioning the works of other persons, avoid using negative terms.
 - They are probably your referees and they are sensitive.
- **Avoid predominantly citing your own works**
- **Cite the papers of potential referees in the introduction**
- **Give credit generously to the most likely referees**
 - Explain why their works are significant for your analysis.
 - This takes up less than 1% of the space, but it can affect the probability of acceptance significantly.

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Writing Strategies

Preparing the Main Body

- **Prepare a rough outline before writing**
 - Sketch briefly the content of each section. Smooth out the connections. Without this rough blueprint, the paper often evolves in a different direction than you intended.
- **Start writing before the paper is finished in your head**
 - Begin the main body with empirical or theoretical results. Then create the introduction and conclusion.
- **Do not read too much**
 - It can interfere with your own thinking and writing.
 - Remember your goal is to write and publish a paper, not to read everything.

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Writing Strategies

Preparing the Main Body

- **Strike a balance between theory and applications**
 - A theoretical paper should say something about policies, applications, or empirical work.
 - An empirical paper should say something about the theory that led to the empirical work.
 - Check the preferences of the journals.
- **Divide long paragraphs**
 - No paragraph should be longer than half a page.
 - As a general rule, a paragraph should have more than two sentences.

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Writing Strategies

Conclusion

- **Summarize the contribution briefly in the conclusion**
 - Mention the limitations of the results (without being negative).
 - Discuss how the theory may be extended in certain areas.
 - Compare your results to those in the current literature.
 - If the literature does not have comparable results, discuss how your paper is related to the literature.
 - Do not repeat some portion of the introduction.
- **Discuss policy implications**
 - Mention the implications for policy makers, practitioners, or other researchers.

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Writing Strategies

Abstract and Title

- **Write a provocative abstract**
 - Write the abstract only after the conclusion is written.
 - So do an excellent job here.
- **Choose an interesting title**
 - Give the paper an eye-catching title.
 - The title should be short.
 - One line is best. Never use more than two lines.

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Writing Strategies

References

- **Minimize references**
 - Don't cite all papers that have been written on the subject.
 - This practice may be appropriate for a doctoral dissertation, but not for a journal paper.
 - An ideal number of references is one dozen. A practical upper limit is twenty.
- **Include references to authors who are known to like your papers**
 - Perhaps they might become referees.
 - Include liberal references to famous economists, dead or alive, who are unlikely to be your referees.

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Writing Strategies

References

- **Cite your own articles**
 - Cite your own related papers, provided that they were published in a prestigious journal.
 - But do not cite too many.
 - Do not cite your dissertation. The referees will know you are inexperienced.

Endnotes and Appendix

- **Put technical, detailed comments in notes**
 - Combined endnotes, tables, references, and appendix should be smaller than the main body of the paper.
 - The main text should be free from technical details.

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Preparation for Submission

Preparation for submission

- **Sit on the finished version for one week**
- **Reread the introduction, conclusion, and abstract before submission**
- **Use, but do not rely totally on spelling checkers**

Acknowledgement

- **Remove negative clues from acknowledgment**
 - In the acknowledgment, remove any reference to when the paper was conceived or written.

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Preparation for Submission

Submission

- **Eliminate any trace of prior rejections**
 - In the references, eliminate any references to papers that were "forthcoming" a few years back.
- **Submit your paper to a rising journal**
 - Good specialty journals are rising.
 - Acceptance rate may be higher. Payoff is greater later.
- **Do not submit two papers to the same journal in two months**
 - Other things being equal, editors prefer to publish two articles by different authors.
- **Do not submit a paper > one journal at the same time.**

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Preparation for Submission

Submission

- **Check for related articles in the journal being considered**
 - Authors who published a paper on a related subject are likely to be referees.
 - Obviously, you need to say something about, or at least cite, their papers.
- **Use professional editorial assistance**
- **Know the preferences or biases of journals**
- **Contact the editor after six months of submission**

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Rejection and Revision

Rejection

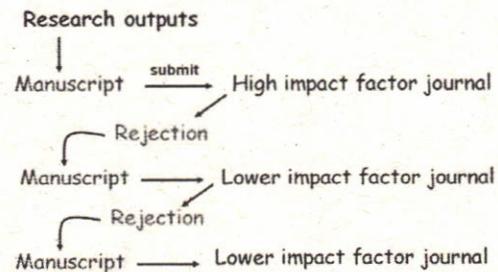
- **When rejected, try again! Do not get angry**
 - Even Nobel Laureates get rejection letters.
 - Submit the paper to another journal within one month.
 - If a referee points out a major problem, you need to address it.
 - Why? The same referee might get it again.
- **If a "stupid" referee misunderstood your paper, it is your fault**

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Rejection and Revision

Rejection

กลยุทธ์ที่มักถูกใช้บ่อยครั้ง



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Rejection and Revision

Revision

- **Write a detailed response to individual referees**
 - In a note to the referee, first thank him or her.
 - Number all relevant comments and respond to those (explain what you did in the revised paper).
 - Indicate that you are doing everything possible and more.
- **Do not attack referees**
 - Do not say: "The referee's idea is bad, but mine is good."
- **Resubmit the revised paper within three months**
 - Do not resubmit the revised version in one month, even if you worked on it full time.
 - If you do, the editor may think that you have not devoted a sufficient amount of time to the revision.

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