

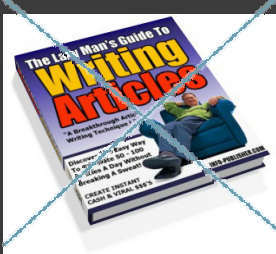


How to write an article?

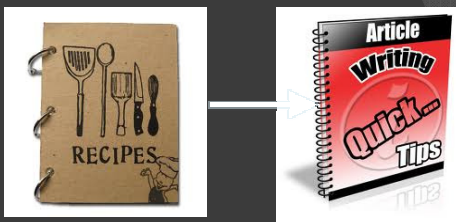
PROF DR MARC SABBE
DEPT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
UZ LEUVEN, BELGIUM

There is no magic trick ...




but a few recipes for beginners




and a lot of work in perspective !

but....




YES YOU CAN.

forget any financial cashflow

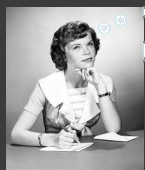


but if you are the lucky one ...



Before writing

- Read !
- Think !



- What am I writing about ?
- Who am I writing for ?
- Why am I writing ?

The 3 essentials

- **RELEVANT**
 - There is no point in answering a question that nobody is asking !
- **ORIGINAL**
 - There is no point in answering a question that has already been answered!
- **SCIENTIFICALLY VALID - science crash test**
 - There is no point in using bad science

Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication

Updated April 2010



The Vancouver group in 1978

www.icmje.org

General principles

- IMRAD structure
- Tenses:
 - I = present
 - M/R = past
 - Discussion = past for your results, present for literature data
- Paragraphs: 2/7/7/6 or 2/8/8/7
- Results and Discussion may need subheadings
- Double spacing
- Number all the pages

The abstract

- The only portion indexed in E data bases
- The only portion many read
- Respect word limit (250 – 350 words)
- No abbreviation !
- Must be a stand alone part:

The 4 ?

1. Why did you start ?
2. What did you do ?
3. What did you find ?
4. What does it mean ?

Introduction:

Be short ! (250-500 words)

- What do we know ?
- What do we not know ?
- What is the knowledge gap?
- Why is it important to fill the gap ?
- How the study will fill the gap ?

MAIN STUDY OBJECTIVE



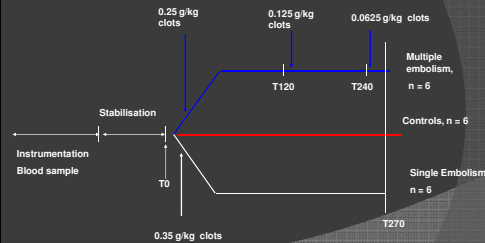
Methods: How was your study performed?

Critical part for the editor so...be careful!

- Study plan: type, eligibility, flow chart
- Selection Participants/Population
- Technical infos: apparatus, procedure
- Data collection protocol, analysis
- Statistical analysis: be professional or use a professional



Make it simple!



Ethical committee

• Informed consent

• exceptions

- Urgency
- Impossibility (coma) – therapeutic privilege
- Transfer to third party



Results: Facts, only facts !

- No discussion, no comments, no interpretation
- Fill in table/figures, rather than writing text
- Balance Text/Tables/Figure
- Do not duplicate data

Discussion The hardest part to write

- Start with a brief summary of main findings
- Focus on main outcome/objective
- A subheading/main idea
 - Mechanisms/explanation of findings
 - Compare/contrast with relevant studies
"thesis / anti-thesis / synthesis"
- Limitations
- Implications of the findings for future research/clinical practice (recommendations)



Discussion What may kill your work

- Hypotheses not supported by your data !
- Over-interpretation
- Confusion statistical difference vs clinical relevance
- Insert new ideas in conclusion!
- Finish with the empty comment
« more studies need to be done »



References

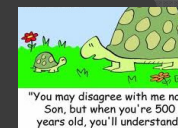
- ☉ Limited to cornerstones papers (20 to 30 max !)
- ☉ Context of the study
- ☉ Method
- ☉ Interesting results
- ☉ Confirm/infirm your results/conclusions

Writing science.... needs science of writing !

- ☉ Correct grammar
- ☉ Simple words
- ☉ Easy to understand
- ☉ Short sentences (15-20 words),

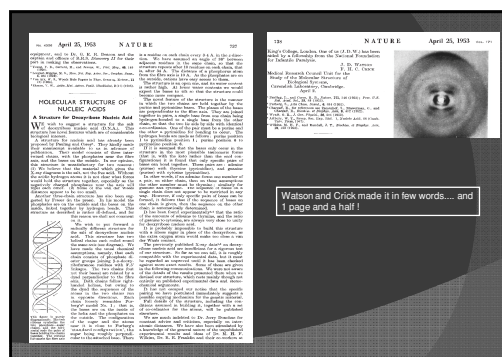
Make it short

Make it VERY short !
Shorten any further
Than make it shorter



HOW ?

- ☉ 1. Delete words adding nothing to the sentence
- ☉ 2. Delete sentences adding nothing to the paragraph
- ☉ 3. Delete paragraphs adding nothing to the paper



Balance paper - journal

- Right paper to
- Right journal at
- Right time

Which article?

- ☉ Study protocol
- ☉ Review
- ☉ Meta-analysis, cochrane review
- ☉ Original scientific paper
- ☉ Original clinical paper (RCT)
- ☉ Technical report
- ☉ Short communication
- ☉ letter
- ☉ Abstract
- ☉ ...



Which journal?

- Pure scientific journal
- Pure clinical journal
- mixed journal
- Open access journal
- Sponsored journal with invited papers
- Newsletters
- Web based journal
- Online
- ...



The European Society for Emergency Medicine (EuSEM)
and The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM),
along with the Hellenic Society for Emergency Medicine (HeSEM)

have the pleasure to announce

The Sixth Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress (MEMC VI)

