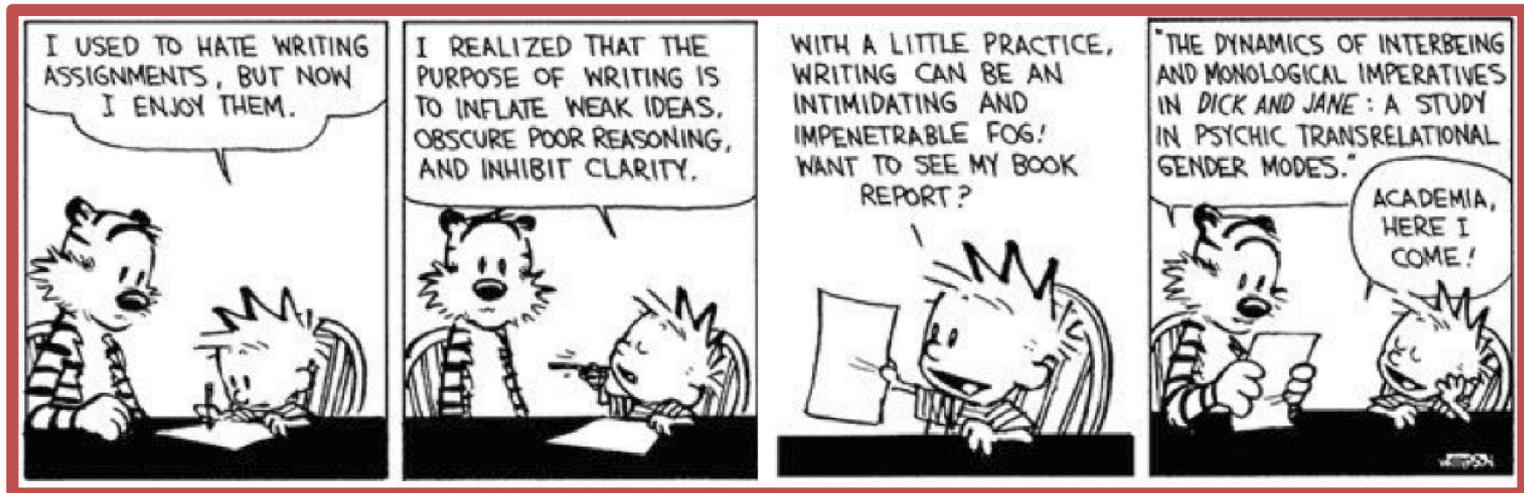


How To Get Your Paper Rejected



Is Writing Important ??

- It improves quality of your research
 - It forces you to better understand what you're doing and often leads to new project ideas
 - We need communicate ideas, not only to create them.
 - Even if ideas are great, when nobody can understand them, they are useless
 - Getting accepted is one thing, having impact is another one

Can anybody write ??

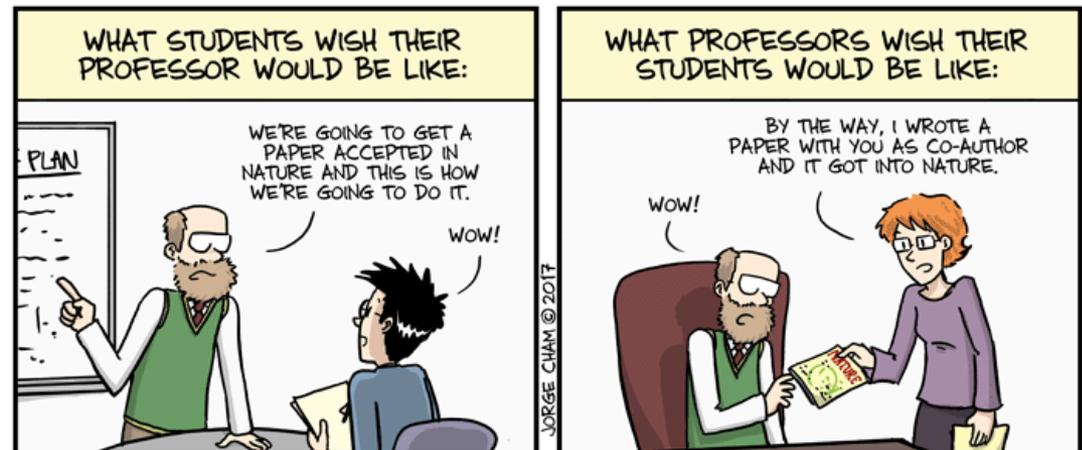
“We are all apprentices of a craft where no one ever becomes a master. “

~ Earnest Hemingway

- It doesn't have much to do with being a native speaker
- Good writing is impossible in the absence of clear thinking
- Good writing doesn't come in a single session

Only Solution – Re-writing

- Good writing is re-writing. This means you need to start writing the paper early!



Where to Publish

Journal

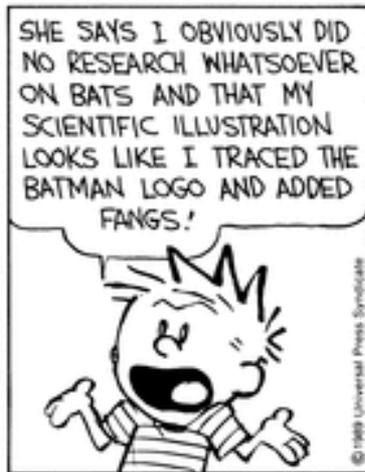
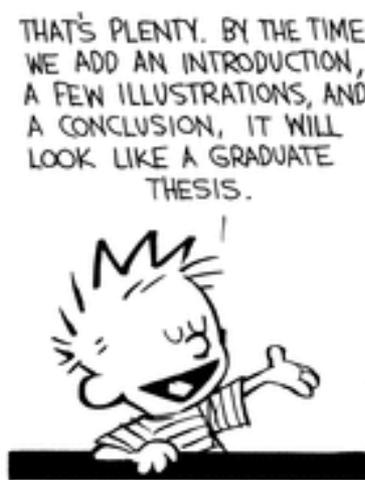
- Long turn-around time
- But “archival”
- Can have a dialog with reviewers and editor.

Conference

- Immediate feedback
- Publication within 6 or 7 months.
- One-shot reviewing. Sometimes the reviewing is sloppier.

When to Write ??

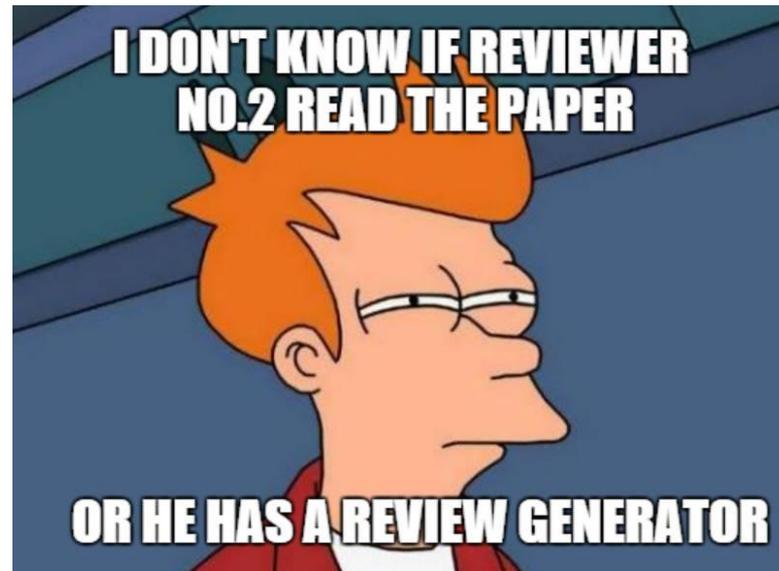
Write a Paper When You Have Something to Write



Copy and Paste/ Plagiarism

Main Reasons for Paper Rejection

The most dangerous mistake you can make when writing your paper is assuming that the reviewer will understand the point of your paper.



Your paper will get rejected unless

- Tell what your paper is about
- What problem it solves
- Why the problem is interesting
- What is really new in your paper (and what isn't)
- You must make your paper easy to read
- You've got to make it easy for anyone to understand

General Format

“Tell them what you're going to tell them;
then tell them;
then tell them what you told them”

Structure of a Paper

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction answers “why?”
- Technical details answers “when, where, how, how much?”
- Results answers “what?”
- Discussion answers “so what?”
- Conclusion
- Appendix

Title

- Informative and specific
- Concise
- Understandable
- All nouns are capitalized in the title
- Goal : Encourage the reader to read the paper

Abstract : Why do we write abstracts?

- Readers can assess the relevance of your work to their own simply by reading your abstract.
- Your intended audience should be able to understand the abstract without having to read any of the paper.
- Abstract is usually the first thing that readers read, and based on that abstract, make a judgment whether to keep reading or not.
- Abstract is one of the most important elements of a paper.

Abstract

- The abstract summarizes your research in one paragraph.
- The abstract includes results.
- The language is concise and easy-to-read.

Introduction

- Inform reader of the relevance of your research
- It includes a short history or relevant background that leads to a statement of the problem that is being addressed.
- It usually follow a *funnel* style, starting broadly and then narrowing.
- They funnel from something known, to something unknown, to the question the paper is asking.

Technical Details

- Be precise, complete, and concise: include only relevant information
- No unnecessary details, anecdotes, excuses, or confessions.
- It includes reasons why the team took certain measurements or chose to use certain equations.

Results

- Present the data using graphs and tables to reveal any trends that you found.
- Describe these trends to the reader.
- The Results section is supposed to objectively describe your research results,
- It is actually slightly subjective in the choice and order of findings presented.

Discussion

- Interpret your results: evaluate, analyze, explain the significance and implications of your work
- Generalizations that you can draw from your results, principles that you support/disprove
- Conclusions about theoretical and/or practical implications
- Explain key limitations: questions left unanswered, major experimental constraints, lack of correlation

Conclusion

- Conclusions should synthesize the results of your paper and separate what is significant from what is not.
- Ideally, they should add *new* information and observations that put your results in perspective.
- Here's a simple test: if somebody reads your conclusions before reading the rest of your paper, will they fully understand them? If the answer is ``yes," there's probably something wrong.
- A good conclusion
 - says things that become significant after the paper has been read
 - gives perspective to sights that haven't yet been seen at the introduction
 - is about the implications of what the reader has learned

- (1) Start by stating which problem you are addressing, keeping the audience in mind. They must care about it, which means that sometimes you must tell them why they should care about the problem.
- (2) Then state briefly what the other solutions are to the problem, and why they aren't satisfactory. If they were satisfactory, you wouldn't need to do the work.
- (3) Then explain your own solution, compare it with other solutions, and say why it's better.
- (4) At the end, talk about related work where similar techniques and experiments have been used, but applied to a different problem.

Importance of Editing

- I'm not a very good writer, but I'm an excellent rewriter. ~James Michener
- The beautiful part of writing is that you don't have to get it right the first time, unlike, say, a brain surgeon.
~ Robert Cormier
- The time to begin writing an article is when you have finished it to your satisfaction. By that time you begin to clearly and logically perceive what it is you really want to say. ~Mark Twain

Sample Writing Process

Prewriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make notes, scribble ideas: start generating text, drawing figures, sketching out presentation ideas.• Ignore neatness, spelling, and sentence structure--get the ideas down.• Analyze audience and purpose to focus your writing.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start with whatever section is easiest to write.• Skip around to different sections as needed.• Keep writing.
Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work on content first, then structure, then style.• Keep focused on your main purpose: communicating, reasoning, presenting clearly.• Get feedback.• Circle back to prewriting as needed.
Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check all data for accuracy.• Review for grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors.
Proofread	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Print and read your report/paper again. Often we don't see errors on-line as easily as we do on a hard copy.

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- Re-read articles you or others admire and imitate their better aspects