Publishing Your Educational Scholarship

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Ann W. Frye, Ph.D.

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Workshop Topics

- What is educational scholarship?
- Research? Innovation?
- Choosing appropriate platform
- Preparing to write
- Structure / elements of paper
- Review, rejection, revision processes
- Debriefing the workshop

Educational Scholarship
(Glassick’s Criteria)

- Clear goals
- Adequate preparation
- Appropriate methods
- Significant results
- Effective communication (dissemination)
- Reflective critique


Research? Innovation?

Research Paper Structure

- Introduction / Background
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion / Conclusions

Innovation Paper Structure

- Introduction/Educational Problem
- Project description
- Outcomes
- Conclusions / Lessons learned

Ann W. Frye, Ph.D.
(annfrye@sbcglobal.net)
Choosing Appropriate Platform

- Choices
  - Print journal?
  - Online journal?
  - Curriculum repository?
  - Conference proposal / abstract?
  - Others?

- How to choose?

Choose the Right Journal

- Review journal’s scope carefully
- Pull several volumes; check for similar articles
- Use a similar article as a template
- Follow instructions
  - Read and follow authors’ instructions
  - Follow the appropriate style guide
  - Use articles in the journal as the best guide
Preparing to Write

• Principles of scholarship
• Your message
• Your readers
• Your process

Writing: Principles of Scholarship

• Build on what has been done
• Use rigorous research/evaluation designs
• Use good outcome measures
• Provide adequate description

Writing: Your Message

1) What do I want to accomplish in this paper?

2) Address the important elements
   - Innovation paper
   - Research paper

Writing: Your Readers

• Are they from other countries?
• Might they have other specialty areas?
• What context information must you include?
• Will you need to explain educational structures or terms?
• Acronyms and “local” jargon must be explained!

Writing: Your Own Process

1) “Classic” approach
   • You know what you want to say; you choose the words to say it.
   • Write in the order of your manuscript’s outline.

2) “Generative” approach
   • Ideas develop as writing occurs.
   • Elements of paper may be written in any order.
   • Unblock yourself!

Tips for Writing

• Try outlining and filling in.
• Begin writing with any section.
• Must be perfect? Writer’s block!!
• Stuck? Put it down, return later.
• Use collaborators!
• Write, rewrite, rewrite again.
• Take a “breather” between revisions.
• Get “pre-peer review” from friendly readers.

Elements of Research Report

1) Introduction
   WHY did you ask the question: educational problem
   Summary of relevant literature
   The research question

2) Methods (What did you DO?)

3) Results

4) Discussion (What does it MEAN?)

Elements of Innovation Report

1) Clear problem statement (with lit review)
2) Options for addressing problem
   • Stakeholders, implementation costs/challenges
   • Why your choice was best option
3) Description of implementation process
4) Detailed assessment of innovation & implementation process
5) Feedback from all key stakeholders
6) Performance-based outcomes
7) Discussion of “lessons learned” framed in the literature

9 Common Mistakes
1) Not truly innovative
2) Missing/unconvincing problem description
3) Insufficient description of innovation / design
4) No discussion of reasons for choosing THIS design/innovation over others
5) Insufficient / unconvincing evidence of outcomes

Common Mistakes - continued
6) No discussion of application to others’ work
7) Overstating findings’ meaning
8) Making spelling, grammatical or data errors
9) Failing to note appropriate ethics review

Work Pause #3

Getting Ready to Submit
• Double-check author instructions
  Ethics review / approval indicated?
  Correct format, including references?
• Proofread everything
• Turn off “track changes”
• Prepare additional required documents
Click “Submit”!

Behind The Scenes

- Initial editorial review
- Assignment to reviewers
- Getting reviews back
- Editorial decision – at last

The Decision & Your Next Steps

- Reject
- Accept.....
  As is (Congratulations!) – rare
  With required revisions – more common

If At First You Don’t Succeed...

KEEP TRYING!!!

- Many good journals’ acceptance rates < 50%. You are not alone.
- Read reviewers’ feedback. Use what you can.
- Resubmit ASAP, using your frustration as a motivator.
- Adjust manuscript to the new journal’s requirements!
- It can take several tries to get a manuscript accepted. Don’t give up.
You’ve Gotten Accepted (with revisions...)!

• Read the feedback carefully.
• Put ego away; do what editors and/or reviewers request *(if you can).*
• Describe how you addressed the editor/reviewer comments/requests point by point.
• Double-check manuscript before sending it back.
• Check the publisher’s proof even more carefully.

Questions?

Work Pause #4: Make Your Plan

Wrapping Up