

## Publishing Your Educational Scholarship

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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

Glassick CE. Boyer's Expanded Definition of Scholarship, the Standards for Assessing Scholarship, and the Elusiveness of a Scholarship of Teaching. Acad Med. 2000;75:877-880.

## Research? Innovation?

### Research Paper Structure

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

### Innovation Paper Structure

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

Work Pause #1

### 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

Work Pause #2

### Preparing to Write

- Principles of scholarship
- Your message
- Your readers
- Your process

Parsell G. & Bligh J. AMEE Guide No. 17: Writing for journal publication, Med Teach 1999;21(5):457-468.

### 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

Parsell G. & Bligh J. AMEE Guide No. 17: Writing for journal publication, Med Teach 1999;21(5):457-468.

### 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!

Parsell G. & Bligh J. AMEE Guide No. 17: Writing for journal publication, Med Teach 1999;21(5):457-468.

### 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!

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### 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

1. Kanter SL. Toward better descriptions of innovations. Acad Med 2008;83:703  
 2. Prideaux D. Writing about curriculum change: beyond the local and particular; Med Educ 1999; 33:4-5.

### 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**