



Publishing in Nursing

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Why Write?

- ◆ **Why write for publication?**
 - **You have knowledge to share**
 - **Many journals are actively seeking manuscripts on many topics, especially clinical ones**
 - **Previous publishing experience is never a requirement for writing for publication**
 - **Writing brings personal satisfaction and professional recognition**



Nursing Needs Writers

- ◆ **Many worthwhile ideas do not get the attention they deserve because few people are aware of them.**
- ◆ **The nurse who is dedicated to the profession accepts the sharing of ideas as a professional commitment.**

Sheridan & Dowdney, 1986, "How to Write and Publish Articles in Nursing"



Stages of the Writing Process

- ◆ **There are three stages to the writing process:**
 - **Planning Your Writing**
 - **Writing**
 - **Rewriting**



Three Stages in the Writing Process:

Planning, Writing, and Rewriting

- ◆ **Planning your writing**

Before beginning to write, you need to identify a working plan of action:

- **plan your writing & writing time**
- **develop an outline to guide writing**



Writing

- ◆ **The writing of the manuscript is facilitated by planning and by following your outline**
- ◆ **You will write best if you schedule, structure and pace your writing**



Rewriting

- ◆ **Rewriting is a fundamental component of the writing process. Accepting that rewriting is a part of the writing process will aid your writing (and rewriting)!**



Formulating a Writing Project

- ◆ **Choose a Topic and Journal**
- ◆ **Gather Information**
 - **gather information you will need for writing: references, examples of manuscripts from the targeted journal, patient records or data, previously published and related articles, etc.**
- ◆ **Planning Your Writing Time**
 - **Set up a rough timeline, planning to do one step each day or week.**



Formulating a Writing Project

Gathering of Information

- ◆ **Query journal editors to assess interest in reviewing your proposed manuscript**
 - **Do this ideally before or during the writing of the manuscript**



The Query

- ◆ **The query is a correspondence in which the author describes the paper that is going to be written to determine whether the journal editor would be interested in reviewing it for possible publication.**
- ◆ **Writing a query allows you to explore an editor's interest in your topic before you write the article.**
- ◆ **This way, you can adapt your writing to the editor's suggestions.**



The Query

- ◆ **The query has proved to be a manuscript screening tool that saves times for both writers and editors**
- ◆ **An advantage of the query is that authors learn quickly if an article idea is not suitable for a particular journal**
- ◆ **You can send query emails/letters at the same time to a number of journals – however, you can only submit the manuscript to one**



The Query

- ◆ **Writing a query saves time as it allows you to explore an editor's interest in your topic before you write the article**
- ◆ **You can therefore adapt what you are writing to the editor's suggestions**
- ◆ **If the journal has recently accepted a similar article, the editor may suggest modifying your proposed article to one that would fit**



Writing the Query

- ◆ **In several sentences, indicate the overall plan, purpose and general idea of the content to be covered**
- ◆ **It is also helpful to indicate why this particular article would be of interest or importance to the journal's readers**



Writing the Query

- ◆ **If similar articles were published in past issues of the journal, specify how your paper would differ from these.**
- ◆ **If your review of the nursing literature revealed no articles on your subject, mention so that it is clear to the editor that you have done a search on the topic and journal**



Writing the Query

- ◆ **Give enough information about yourself to validate your ability to write on your subject-your educational background, work experience, and especially, any special experiences you have had which relate to your subject area.**



Writing the Query

- ◆ **Your query is a sample of how you think and write**
- ◆ **Carefully check spelling and punctuation**



Query Response

- ◆ **Response is expected in a month or less**
- ◆ **Email responses can sometime be received in several days**
- ◆ **If a positive response is received, acknowledge receipt and confirm or establish the deadline for submission of the manuscript**
- ◆ **Indicate your willingness to follow suggestions for changes in your proposed article and to incorporate these in the manuscript**



Formulating a Writing Project

Organizational Techniques

- ◆ **Use the publisher's format:**
 - Follow the instructions to authors guidelines**
- ◆ **Plan your work. Plan for your writing, and develop a realistic writing schedule**
- ◆ **Consider this:**
 - **Poor organization is a significant problem; it is one of the major reasons for rejection of a manuscript.**



FACT:

- ◆ **“Gone With The Wind” was rejected the first time around!**



25 Ways to Avoid Writer's Block

- 1. Decide you have something valuable to say**
- 2. Solicit the editor's feedback**
- 3. Set a target date**
- 4. Ask for personnel or equipment support at work**
- 5. Start today**
- 6. Avoid planning for an 8-hour day of writing**
- 7. Use short periods of time for writing***
- 8. Break your writing into parts***
- 9. Write only one part in a time period***

Johnson, S. (1982) "25 Ways to Avoid Writer's Block."



25 Ways to Avoid Writer's Block

- 10. Schedule your writing times***
- 11. Don't get stuck in the literature search**
- 12. Don't co-author without careful planning**
- 13. Brainstorm before writing**
- 14. Don't blame the pen for not writing***
- 15. Start your mind first**
- 16. Decide on your single main idea**
- 17. Set up a comfortable and uninterrupted environment**
- 18. Start writing any section**

Johnson, S. (1982) "25 Ways to Avoid Writer's Block."

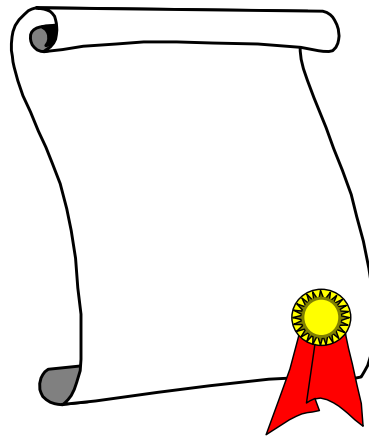


25 Ways to Avoid Writer's Block

- 19. Learn to dictate**
- 20. Don't worry about journalism for your first draft***
- 21. Don't show your writing to anyone while it's in progress***
- 22. Have colleagues review your manuscript after it's completed***
- 23. Submit your manuscript**
- 24. Follow through on requested revisions**
- 25. Reward yourself for each small accomplishment***

Johnson, S. (1982) "25 Ways to Avoid Writer's Block."

*Remember, the goal of
resubmission is to receive the
following*



**CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR
MANUSCRIPT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED
FOR PUBLICATION!**

