

Fundamentals of a Writing an Article

The background is a solid teal color. A thin, light teal curved line starts from the left edge, curves downwards and then back up towards the right, creating a large, open shape on the left side of the slide.

Title

- Working title
- Short, concise
- Describe population, intervention

Abstract

- Abbreviated summary (< 250 words)
- Describes study
- Basic bolts of study
- Should stand alone
- Different styles
- Key words

Introduction

- Tells the reader of the basic problem
- States importance of the problem
- Perspective
- Brief review
- Purpose

Methods

- Single most important section
- Reproducible
- Five distinct sections

Method Sections

- Experimental design
- Study sample
- Treatment allocation
- Criteria for accomplishment
- Statistics

Results

- What happened
- Efficacy
- Toxicity
- Statistical significance

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Tables

- Use when exact numbers are important
- Arrange data to make a point (e.g. rank order is important in some tables)
- Make working tables initially
- Do not repeat data in tables and text
- Variables should run vertically, groups horizontally (do not forget units of measure)
- Table should stand alone (e.g., title, abbreviations, p values, statistical test)
- If two tables have comparative data repeated-merge into one
- Number in order of citation in text

Figures

- To show patterns, trends (specific numbers not important)
- Useful for time trends
- Label all axis and data categories
- Dependent variable always on y axis

Bar Graphs

- Compare magnitudes or differences (discontinuous data)
- Same widths for bars, wider widths for spaces
- Do not use 3-dimensional for publications
- No color, use pattern. Be conservative, pick patterns that will translate to xeroxing

Pie Graphs

- Show relationships of component parts to whole
- Arrange sectors according to largest sector starting at the noon position
- Continue clockwise in successively smaller segments
- Label with percentages
- If more than 8 segments-forget it.

Discussion

- Summary
- Comparison
- Unplanned findings
- Limitations
- Recommendations for future research
- Conclusion