Guide to Publishing in Psychology Journals
Guide to Publishing in Psychology Journals

Edited by

Robert J. Sternberg

Department of Psychology, Yale University
Contents

Preface  

PART ONE. INTRODUCTION

1 Writing an Empirical Article  
   Daryl J. Bem  

2 Writing a Literature Review  
   Nancy Eisenberg  

PART TWO. PARTS OF AN ARTICLE

3 Titles and Abstracts: They Only Sound Unimportant  
   Robert J. Sternberg  

4 Introducing Your Research Report: Writing the Introduction  
   Philip C. Kendall, Jennifer S. Silk, and Brian C. Chu  

5 Theories and Hypotheses  
   Abraham Tesser  

6 Writing Effectively about Design  
   Harry T. Reis  

7 Doing Data Analyses and Writing Up Their Results: Selected Tricks and Artifices  
   Elena L. Grigorenko  

8 Results That Get Results: Telling a Good Story  
   Peter Salovey  

page vii  

3  

17  

37  

41  

58  

81  

98  

121
9 What Does It All Mean? The Discussion 133
   Robert Calfee

10 Documenting Your Scholarship: Citations and References 146
   Randolph A. Smith

PART THREE. DEALING WITH REFEREES

11 Writing for Your Referees 161
   Robert J. Sternberg

12 Reading Reviews, Suffering Rejection, and Advocating for Your Paper 169
   Melissa G. Warren

13 Rewriting the Psychology Paper 187
   Richard K. Wagner

PART FOUR. CONCLUSION

14 Article Writing 101: A Crib Sheet of 50 Tips for the Final Exam 199
   Robert J. Sternberg
For psychologists who pursue a career in scholarship, there is one more certainty beyond death and taxes: rejected articles. Strongly refereed journals have high rejection rates and so it is almost inevitable that, sooner or later, usually sooner, one will get an editor’s letter rejecting a submitted article. Even most articles that ultimately are accepted first were rejected. In some cases, the editor gave the author a chance to resubmit. In other cases, the author simply submitted the article to another journal. In either case, the article was rejected before it was accepted.

Outright acceptances are quite rare. When I was editor of the Psychological Bulletin, for example, our outright acceptance rate for initial submissions was probably about 2%.

The goal of this book is to offer authors guidance in how to write better articles and thereby improve their chances for acceptance. The book is divided into 14 chapters, including a final integrative chapter, with each of the first 13 chapters covering a different aspect of the article-writing process, including writing an empirical article, writing a literature review, titles and abstracts, introductions, theories and hypotheses, experimental design, data analysis, results, discussions, citations and references, writing for reviewers, reading reviews, and methods.

A unique feature of this book is that all chapter authors have been editors or associate editors of major psychological journals, so that they are in a good position to write about writing articles. In writing their chapters for this book, all of these authors have written for
PREFACE

diverse audiences, from beginning graduate students to seasoned professionals.

This book is not intended to repeat information contained in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (4th ed., 1994) or in guides to writing papers, such as Sternberg (1993). Rather, the book is intended to go beyond the mechanics of writing articles to the higher order issues of how to use these mechanics in an effective and productive manner.

I am grateful to Julia Hough for contracting the book, to Sai Durvasula for help with manuscript preparation, and to the American Psychological Association, which has given me the opportunity to edit two of its journals and thereby to learn first-hand about the journal-editing process.

REFERENCES
