

Charting a new path: *PLOS Global Public Health*



Introducing *PLOS Global Public Health*

PLOS GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

EDITORIAL

PLOS Global Public Health, charting a new path towards equity, diversity and inclusion in global health

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Scope: 21 Sections, 43 Section Editors

- Global Health Ethics
- Global Mental Health
- Injuries, Trauma, & Global Surgery
- Global Health Security
- Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine
- Maternal, Newborn & Child Health
- Sexual & Reproductive Rights and Health
- Planetary & Environmental Health
- Social, Behavioral, and Qualitative Research
- Global health governance
- Evidence-based Public Health
- Indigenous Health
- Non-communicable Diseases
- Infectious Diseases
- Global Health Delivery
- Emergencies and Humanitarianism
- Nutrition
- Racism and Health
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Policy and Finance
- Gender and Health

Publication Criteria



Novelty is not a publication criteria. Research must contribute to the base of scientific knowledge.



Methods must be reported completely and research must be reproducible.



Data must be available and follow our Open Science policies.



Research must be original & must adhere to strict methods & ethics criteria.

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/s/criteria-for-publication>

PLOS Writing Center



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About PLOS

Welcome to the PLOS Writing Center

Your source for scientific writing & publishing essentials

A collection of free, practical guides and hands-on resources for authors looking to improve their scientific publishing skillset.



<https://plos.org/resources/writing-center/>

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Writing the Cover Letter, Title, and Abstract

What is My Message?

Review your **results** to determine what your message will be.

If the editors cannot work out your single take-home **message**, they will reject your paper.

They will also reject it if you haven't convinced them of your **study's importance**.

How will I pitch my research?

Cover letter

Title

Abstract

Introduction

1. What is your **scientific question**?
2. What is your **key finding** that answers the question?
3. What is the **nature of the evidence** that supports your conclusion?
4. What **significance** do your results have for the field and the broader community?
5. Is there **additional information** they should take into account?

Cover Letter

Your chance to “sell” your work: put your work in context and convince the reader it's a good fit for the journal

Cover Letter: Top Tips

Remember: the cover letter may be the first (or only!) part of the submission an editor reads

- Keep it **concise** and informative
- Show why your work is interesting
- Skip the dull or derivative
- **Don't over-sensationalize** your research
- Entice the reader without giving away the punch-line
- Include key information about study design
- Include important **keywords**

Cover Letter: Top Tips

**Remember to change the
journal name if using the same
cover letter!!!**

1. Keep it **concise** and informative
2. **Entice** the reader without giving away the punch-line
3. Include key information about the **study design**
4. **Don't overly-sensationalize** your research
5. Include any important **key words**



Title

The only part of your paper many people will read

Key word searches

1. The **first part of a manuscript read** by editors, reviewers and readers
2. The part of the manuscript captured and displayed in **PubMed**
3. It should be a concise **“standalone”** piece with a very clear message
4. It must **accurately reflect** the full text of the paper

Abstract

Summarise the story of your study.

Clarify key takeaways

Abstract: Top Tips

- Keep it **concise**
- Focus on **key results**, conclusions, and take home messages: don't jam in too much detail
- Discuss the implications **without overreaching** your data
- **Don't wildly speculate** future implications
- Use a **checklist** [e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, protocol number if it's a clinical trial]
- **Spell out** your acronyms

A teal-colored background featuring a high-speed photograph of a water splash. The splash is centered, with numerous droplets frozen in mid-air around a central point where a liquid column is still visible. Concentric ripples emanate from the center of the splash, creating a sense of motion and depth. The overall aesthetic is clean and scientific.

Mechanics of Writing: Introduction and Methods

1. Grab the reader!
2. Should put the focus of the manuscript into a **broader context**
3. Draw your reader **immediately to the crucial issue** your work addresses

Introduction

Why is your research question important?

Avoid excessive wordiness

Introduction: Top Tips

- Keep it **short**: 2-3 paragraphs
- Set the scene, but **avoid a literature review**
- Highlight what is **new or innovative** in your work
- Highlight why your research is **needed**
- Make clear **why it matters** to doctors, patients, policy makers, or researchers

1. Make sure you use the **appropriate method** to answer your question, editors will check!
2. Give enough detail that a **qualified reader could repeat the study**
3. If your methods section is “thin on details” editors or reviewers may worry you are hiding a larger problem

Methods

Allows others to replicate the study

Study design and measurement parameters

Data Analysis: What to include

- Describe the **statistical methods and software** you used to analyze your data - include enough detail that other researchers can replicate the study
- Tell readers **how/where your data are available** for reviewers, editors, and future readers

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Mechanics of Writing: Results and Discussion

1. Just the **facts**, please!
2. State clearly **what you found** using words and numbers
3. Main findings in **figures and tables**

Results

Clear writing is not just capable of being understood, it's *incapable* of being *misunderstood*.

Results: Top Tips

- Don't duplicate information in text and tables
- Order results around primary and secondary outcomes, *in the same order as listed in your Methods*
- Try to maintain a consistent order in figures, tables and text when describing variables or experimental conditions.

Discussion: How to Structure it

First Paragraph

- Interpretation/answer based on key findings
- Supporting evidence

Subsequent Paragraphs

- Compare/contrast to previous studies
- Strengths/weaknesses (limitations) of the study
- Unexpected findings
- Hypothesis or models

Last Paragraph

- Summary
- Significance/implication
- Unanswered questions and future research

A really great blog series with tips

[PLOS Mental Health Author Tips Part 1/3: The Efficiency of Peer Review](#)

[PLOS Mental Health Author Tips Part 2/3: Writing Manuscripts as an ECR or Independent Researcher](#)

[PLOS Mental Health Author Tips Part 3/3: Effective Revisions](#)

Top reporting tip #1: Ethical considerations



<https://plos.io/3H9BYOz>



Top reporting tip #2: Reproducibility



Check your methods: Can another researcher pick up your paper and be able to reproduce your study just with the described methods?

- Study setting/data source
- Recruitment: dates, eligibility criteria, questionnaires, etc
- Data analysis: methods, software, etc

A background image featuring a water splash with ripples, overlaid with a teal halftone pattern. A vertical yellow bar is positioned to the left of the text.

I asked the Exec Eds...

“Always write papers with the reviewers/readers in mind and anticipate their questions. This, and avoiding anything vague that can be misunderstood or keep the reader wondering. So I would say it's that. Aside from ensuring that the paper meets all field and ethical standards, **write with the reader in mind.**”

A background image featuring a teal water splash with a central droplet and ripples, overlaid on a white horizontal band.

I asked the Exec Eds...

“Make the submission as tailored to the journal as you're able to! So read any specific requirements on the journal site, write up a cover letter which explains why you see a fit between the paper and the journal/readership and then make sure to fill in all the required fields esp. ones like do you have any suggested Editors to handle the paper or suggested reviewers. Basically stuff that makes it clear you became familiar with the journal site to at least some extent!”

Thank you!

- Thank you for having me here!
jrobinson@plos.org
- Follow us on Bluesky!
- Submit your research!

