

From 80 Pages to 12

*An Introduction to Writing a
Journal Manuscript about Your
DNP Project*

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Did You Know?

Writing for publication does not have to be scary or intimidating.

Who We Are



Sara D. Hauber, MA



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Disclosures



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Objectives

1. Explain the purpose of journal manuscripts
2. Detail how to identify the right journal
3. Describe methods for beginning the writing process
4. Address DNP's obstacles to writing
5. Answer common questions about writing for publication

Purpose of Journal Manuscripts

Why do journals exist?

- Share knowledge
- Establish best practice
- Instigate change
- Speak to specific audience of peers

Why write a manuscript?

- Contribute your hard-earned wisdom
- Establish your name in area of expertise
- Confirm or refute previous findings (move science forward)
- Increase diversity in publication

What types of manuscripts exist?

- Not just “original research” or QI projects
- There are many others!
- Check journals' author guidelines
- Let's look at examples

Commentary

- *Journal of Advanced Nursing*

Commentaries

The Journal accepts two types of commentaries, with the first being preferable:

- Written in response to a paper published in the Journal, offering expert opinion from one or more people (who may agree or disagree) on a current understanding/status of an area, or how practice should be undertaken. No abstract; limit references to 5 or less; 2,000 words maximum.
- Expert opinion from one or more people (who may agree or disagree) on a current understanding/status of an area, or how practice should be undertaken. No abstract; limit references to 5 or less; 2,000 words maximum.

Source:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/13652648/homepage/forauthors.html#manuscript>

Commentary Example

- *Journal of Advanced Nursing*

“Given the centrality of conceptual clarity to the advance of knowledge and practice, we were perplexed by the tone and content of Draper’s editorial arguing ‘there is no place for concept analysis in the scholarship of modern nursing’. ...”

KnafI, K. A. & DeatrIck, J. A. (2014). Commentary on: Draper P. (2014) Editorial: a critique of concept analysis. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 70, 1207–1208.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.12465>

Reviews

- *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*

Reviews (systematic, integrative, literature, and other types): Maximum page length: approximately 16 pages (abstract through references). Use guidelines for reporting the review (e.g., PRISMA). Table of included articles can be submitted as Supplemental Digital Content.

Source: <https://edmgr.ovid.com/jncq/accounts/ifauth.htm>

Review Example

- *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*

Duffy, J. R., Hoskins, L. M., & Chen, M.C. (2004). Nonpharmacological strategies for improving heart failure outcomes in the community: A systematic review. *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, 19(4), 349-360. doi: 10.1097/00001786-200410000-00011.

Clinical/Case Study

- *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*

<i>Clinical/case study</i>	Clinically focused articles will only be considered if the content is unique, cutting-edge, pertains to a special topic or themed issue, or is appropriate for a CE offering. We recommend querying the editor directly to ask if the topic is of interest	Unstructured /250	4,500	30	5
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Source:

<https://journals.lww.com/jaanp/Pages/informationforauthors.aspx#Table%20of%20Article%20Types>

Case Study Example

- *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*

Purpose: To present a case study of a 34-year-old woman with Cushing's disease and provide nurse practitioners (NPs) with the understanding of the clinical presentation needed for early recognition and treatment of the disease.

Iuliano, S.L. and Laws, E.R., Jr. (2013). Early recognition of Cushing's disease: A case study. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 25, 402-406.

<https://doi-org.proxy.lib.ul.ie/10.1111/1745-7599.12014>

How to Find the Right Journal

Find the journal, then write!

- Journals have purpose/focus
- Writing to audience is crucial
- Word count, article type, content requirements all vary
- *Many journals do not accept QI/practice change articles*

Steps to find a journal: Part I

- Review references from your DNP project
- Review author guidelines
- Read latest issues of journals you read and trust
- Ask mentors, faculty, colleagues

Reviewing Author Guidelines

Log in or Register Subscribe to journal Get new issue alerts

AJN American Journal of Nursing
The Leading Voice of Nursing Since 1900

Articles & Issues Collections Multimedia CE/NCPD **For Authors** Journal Info

Submit a Manuscript
Information for Authors
Language Editing Services
Author Permissions

Home > **About the Journal**

About the Journal

The American Journal of Nursing is the oldest and most honored broad-based nursing journal. Peer reviewed and evidence-based, it is considered the profession's premier journal. AJN adheres to journalistic standards that require transparency of real and potential conflicts of interests that authors, editors, and reviewers may have. It follows publishing

<https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Pages/aboutthejournal.aspx>

Reviewing Author Guidelines

PREPARATION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

***AJN only considers manuscripts prepared in the format specified by the American Psychological Association (APA; www.apastyle.org), so, (author, year) in parentheses in text and alphabetical listing of references. **Do NOT use any reference formatting software (eg, End Notes).**

General Guidelines. The style of a submission depends on the type of article being written. (Detailed descriptions of styles for various types of manuscripts are included below). Authors are encouraged to write in active voice, and first and second person are permitted as appropriate.

Presentation. Margins should be 1½" on all sides, left justified only. Type must be a minimum of 12-point font size. Double-space throughout and arrange the text in the following sequence: acknowledgments page; abstract with key words for indexing; main text; references; and figures, tables, and illustrations when appropriate. Number the pages consecutively, in the upper right-hand corner. Number the lines continuously beginning with the main text. Include a short title in the header of each page, just above the page number.

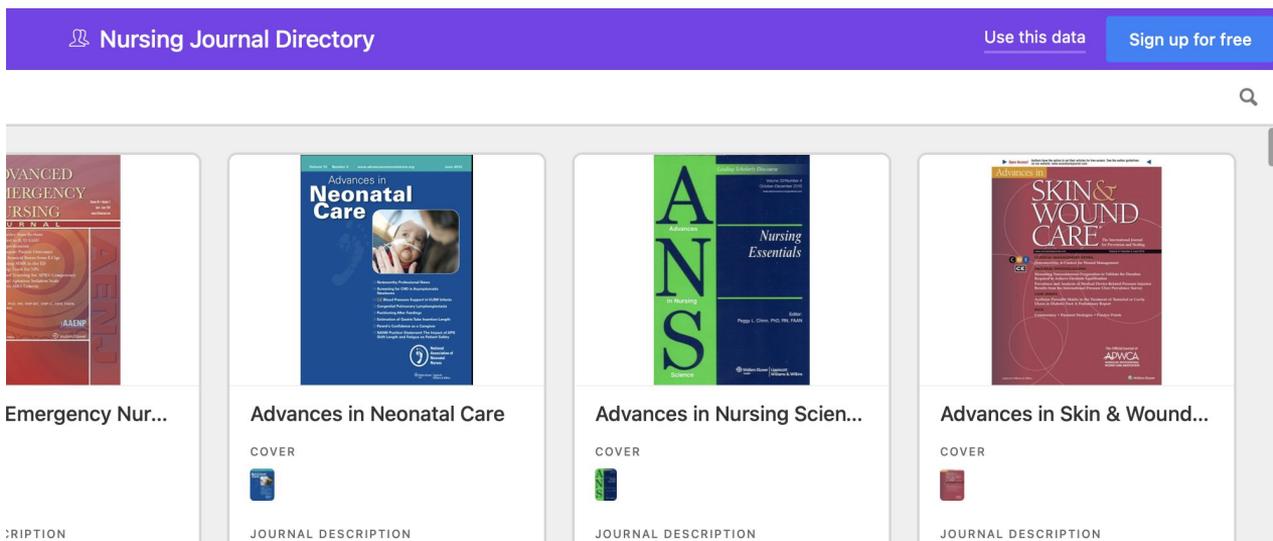
We encourage authors to use headings and subheadings throughout the manuscript. We also encourage the use of diagrams, tables, charts, illustrations, and photos; however, authors should include these as attachments, as opposed to placing them in the body of the text. Use generic drug names instead of proprietary names whenever possible. If it's necessary to use trade names, they should be capitalized and inserted within parentheses after the generic name on first mention. Thereafter, the generic name should be used, if possible. Product names should be treated likewise, with the manufacturer's full name and the city in which the product is manufactured in parentheses

Length. AJN does not have a limit on page length for feature articles; however, papers over 20 pages in length (14,000 words) are discouraged. Do not cut the details of a paper or reduce font size in order to get the manuscript to under 20 pages. We prefer to advise authors on reducing length after their papers are peer reviewed. Columns are shorter, more tightly focused and generally run 2,000 – 3,000 words.

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/ajn/default1.aspx>

Steps to find a journal: Part II

- Check INANE's list of nursing journals (updated 2019)



The screenshot displays the 'Nursing Journal Directory' website. The header is purple with the text 'Nursing Journal Directory' on the left, 'Use this data' in the middle, and 'Sign up for free' on the right. Below the header is a search bar. The main content area shows a grid of journal covers. The first cover is for 'Advanced Emergency Nursing'. The second cover is for 'Advances in Neonatal Care' with the text 'COVER' and 'JOURNAL DESCRIPTION' below it. The third cover is for 'Advances in Nursing Science' with the text 'COVER' and 'JOURNAL DESCRIPTION' below it. The fourth cover is for 'Advances in Skin & Wound Care' with the text 'COVER' and 'JOURNAL DESCRIPTION' below it.

<https://nursingeditors.com/journals-directory/>

Steps to find a journal: Part III

- Avoid predatory journals
 - Is the email's tone overly informal?
 - Is the journal's website provided as part of the email?
 - What is the reputation of the publisher?
 - Does the publisher's website look professional?
 - Are the publisher's full contact details provided clearly on every page (email, postal address, working telephone number)?
 - Is impact factor information presented clearly and without qualifiers (e.g., an asterisk, with a note in fine print that this is an "informal estimate.")
 - Does the journal appear in respected databases?
 - If the journal is identified as "open access," is the journal's financial model clearly announced?

- from <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/04/predatory-publishers>

Steps to find a journal: Part IV

- Signs of predatory journals
 - Odd sentence structure and grammatical errors
 - No explanation (or little explanation) for peer review process

- from

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/nuf.12333>

How to Begin Writing

Writing a journal manuscript Q&A

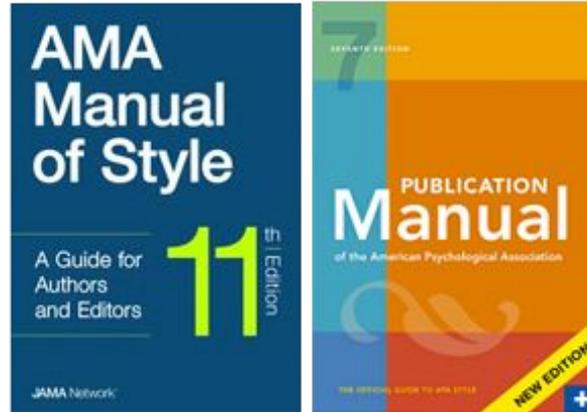
- Should I try to edit down my 80-page DNP project paper that I wrote for my DNP program, or should I start a manuscript from scratch?
- Editing down a large document into a manuscript format is really difficult. It's much easier to start a fresh draft!
- Use recent articles from your selected journal as a content guide.
- Much of the text you were required to write for your DNP project is not used in a journal manuscript.

Writing a journal manuscript Q&A

- Should I use an outline to organize my paper? I don't want to miss anything!
- Outlines are fantastic for getting your thoughts organized. You'll want to base your outline on one of the following
 - Journal guidelines
 - Standard manuscript format
 - Introduction
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion

Use the style guide your journal uses

- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American Psychological Association (APA)



Writing a journal manuscript Q&A

- What is “scientific” or “academic” writing style?
- Professional, but clear (no jargon)
- Proper grammar
- Active voice (subject-verb)
- Cited literature forms your argument
- No opinions or unsupported beliefs

Writing a journal manuscript Q&A

- How long should it take to write a journal manuscript?
- Think in drafts, not “one and done.”
- Good, clear writing takes time and won't get done in days. Plan for weeks of writing, letting the draft rest, and then revising.
- A good goal is to have a solid first draft done in 2 to 3 weeks, and a polished final draft within 6 to 8 weeks.

Writing a journal manuscript Q&A

- After I choose a journal and write my manuscript, what's the process?
- Follow the journal's guidelines for manuscript submission
- Don't miss anything!
 - Making title page and body text anonymous (names/location)?
 - Line numbering?
 - Breaking paper into separate documents?
 - Submitting figure legends separately?
 - What about supplemental digital content?

Overcoming Obstacles

Overcoming obstacles to writing

- When I think about writing for publication, I freeze. What can I do to trick myself into sitting down and writing?
- The best approach is to remember that writing happens in drafts. A first draft is almost never good!
- You can write a first draft as if you were writing an email to a friend explaining the rationale for your project and the methods you used.
- Then revise it later, adding proper citations and making the language less casual.
- Trick your brain so its fear of failure goes offline!

Overcoming obstacles to writing

- I've been told I am not a good writer. But I know my DNP project is worth publishing. How can I get better at writing so I can publish?
- First, everyone can get better at writing, even though it does take dedicated time and effort. There really is no shortcut. Try these methods:
 - Set aside a time each day to review grammar and writing tutorials online
 - Hire a writing coach or tutor
 - Join a writing class or online group where your writing is reviewed by professionals

The important thing...

is to begin.

Questions?