

# Writing a scientific article in English



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## Writing a scientific article in English

- Your aim
  - to provide information of interest and importance to a wide range of people?
  - to clearly communicate the results of your research and/or a theory?
- Your task – to write the article in English

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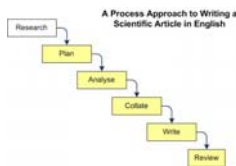
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## The writing process



- Planning your writing project
- Analysing the audience
- Collating the content
- Designing the information presentation
- Writing the content
- Reviewing the content

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## Plan your writing project

- Identify the publication
- Ascertain the submission date
- Prepare a writing plan
- Set yourself a timetable of work
- Allow time for reflection, review, editing



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## Analyse the audience

- Identify your intended audience
- Why would they want to read your article?
- What kind of information will they want?
- How should you present your information for the audience you have identified?



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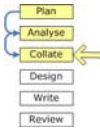
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## Collate the content

- Identify the information you intend to include
- List headings – organize them into a table of contents
- Collate reference material or extracts
- Prepare graphical elements
- Review the content – is it relevant, is it essential?
- Make notes on the content items
- Prepare sticky notes with a heading for each item of content



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## Design the article

- Identify the medium – printed, online, Web, PDF?
- “Story board” your content headings with the sticky notes
- List the main elements of the content structure
- Specify naming convention for figures and tables
- Prepare a style guide for format and writing



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## Design style guides

- Is there a style guide for the format of your article specified by the publisher?
- Create your own template for your first draft of the article
- Specify the writing style you will use
- Create a general writing style guide
- Identify sample English phrases from suitable resources such as IEEE
- Prepare glossary in your own language and with their English equivalents for easy reference



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## Write your article

- Write the content section first
- Format as you write
- Check your writing
- Insert graphics and tables
- Write the introduction
- Write the conclusion
- Write the abstract



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## Write the content

- In each paragraph
  - present the main idea or topic first
  - follow with supporting information
- Speak directly to your audience
- Use non-specialist language
- Keep the length of sentences to a minimum
- Be direct, concise, unambiguous
- Check you are following your design style guide



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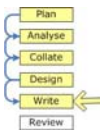
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## Check your writing

- Spell check first
- Check that the headings provide suitable "signposts" to the content
- Read your article aloud
  - to yourself
  - to a colleague
- Make sure the content and language "flow" in the English you have written



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## Insert graphical elements

- Import pictures and diagrams into the body of the text
- Add suitable captions
- Format the captions with the appropriate styled



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## Write the introduction

- State your premise
- Outline what you planned to discuss
- Outline the research you have presented in the body of your article
- Give a brief statement of the conclusions you reached
- Check that your introduction matches the content of the body of your article



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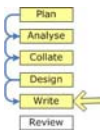
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## Write the conclusion

- Restate your original premise – state what you set out to explain or describe
- Summarize your discussion and the information you presented
- State your conclusion and any implications you consider your research may have



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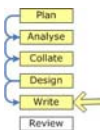
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## Write the abstract

- Introduce your original premise or theory
- Give a brief outline of the content of the article
- Give a brief statement on the results of your research or your conclusions.
- Present your potential reader with ideas on why they may wish to read the full detail of your article



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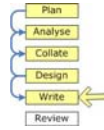
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## References and Bibliography

- Ensure you acknowledge reference to any work that is not your own
- Include footnotes or end note references
- Prepare a bibliography of all books and publications used as references



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## Review and edit – Self review

- Check for grammatical accuracy in English
- Check capitalization of nouns
- Check that the correct terms have been used
- If necessary, change the text to ensure it is clear and easy to read



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## Review and edit – Peer review

- Arrange for a native English speaker to review your article
- Edit the article as required
- Check that the review process has not affected the meaning of the content



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## Reflect and revise

- Put your article away for 30 days or more!
- Think about what you have written – don't touch the article
- Re-read your article and add notes – DO NOT REVISE AS YOU READ!
- Revise and edit your article if necessary



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## Final revision and review

- Work through your comments
- Revise only as necessary
- Do not rewrite just because you have made a comment
- Check the grammar and spelling again
- Check the format against manuscript rules for the publication
- Request a final peer review



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## Publish

Questions?

Comments?

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