Some Tips in Writing a Manuscript

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Fundamental Requirement of a Research Manuscript

• A good manuscript will need to fulfill the “4Cs” criteria.

  Contemporary  Concise
  Credibility    Clarity

• The first two C’s – **Contemporary and Credible**
  – refer to the currency and innovativeness of the research question being addressed as well as the robustness of the research methods and the results.

• The second two C’s – **Concise and Clarity**
  – refer to how the manuscript is written and how the information is presented to the readers.
• Proper use of English is important.
  – A general rule is that:
    • “Every sentence should convey the exact truth as simply as possible.”
  • Following the “IMRaD” format would facilitate your writing of the manuscript.

• Title
  – The title should be self-explanatory and as succinct as possible.
  – The title should be appropriate to the work, and not inflate or make invalid claims of the study’s result.

• Abstract
  – The abstract is a self-explanatory digest of the manuscript without the need to read the whole manuscript.
  – The contents of an abstract should be precise and informative, but not overly detailed.
• Introduction
  – This should provide the theoretical and general framework to justify the necessity to explore the specific question or questions addressed in the study.

• Methods
  – The methods section provides a comprehensive and detailed explanation of how the data were collected and analyzed.
  – It needs to justify why this approach was the most appropriate for the purposes of the study.

• Results
  – The section should summarize data in an understandable form.
  – Use tables or figures where appropriate and supplemented with narrative text.
  – Highlight any statistically significant results.
• Discussion
  – Your interpretation and meaning of the data, and how does it related back to the specific questions you are trying to solve in the “introduction”
  – Analyze the particular strengths and limitations of the study
  – Raise questions for future investigation based on the study findings.
  – Highlight the importance of your results as well as the implications beyond your study subjects.

• References
  – Only list items you have actually cited.
  – There are standard ways required by the journal of presenting reference materials.
    • The Harvard (author-date) System of referencing and bibliography.
    • Vancouver Style Referencing: Commonly used in medical literature