

AIPCA

**Australian Institute
for Primary Care & Ageing**

Writing for publication

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- Writing a main message
 - Constructing a mind map
 - Writing a working abstract
-
- What not to do!
 - How to write a list and other handy hints

The main message

In 20 words or less, what do you really want to say?

(It's important to be strict with the word limit.)

The mind map

What are all the ideas that connect to your main message

- ▶ Write as many things as you can think of
- ▶ Don't censor
- ▶ Leave it and come back to it

- ▶ Use your mind map to
 - ▶ Decide what to include and what to leave out
 - ▶ Structure your argument

What should be in your working abstract

- What you did
- Why you did it
- What you found
- Implications for theory
- Implications for practice

Write with a journal and readers in mind



Introduction

- Not a literature review
- Keep it focused
 - on what the reader needs to know to understand your study
- Finish with the design of the study and any hypotheses

Method

- Use a structure (e.g., Participants, Procedures, Materials, Analysis)

Results

Answer your hypotheses (if you have them)

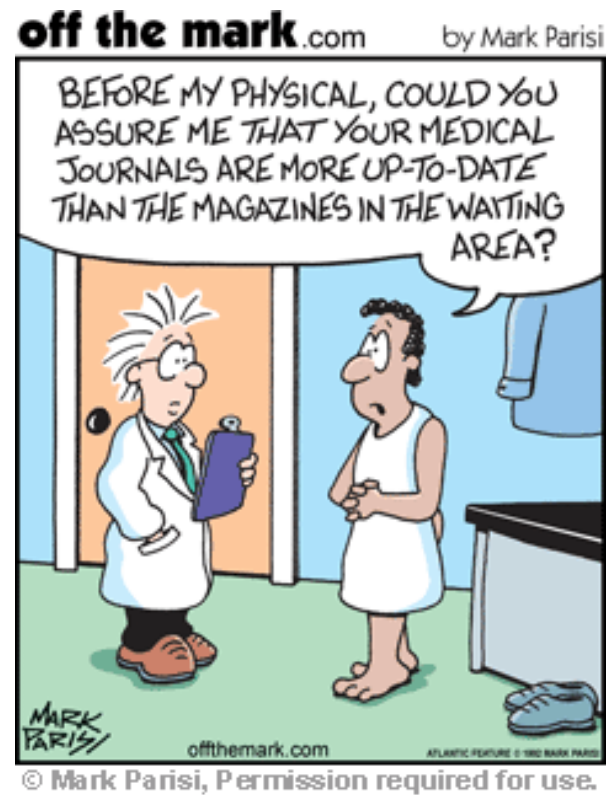
Focus on your main message

- ▶ What are the implications of your main message for
 - ▶ Further research
 - ▶ Theory
 - ▶ Practice
 - ▶ Your Discussion

Discussion

- Start by re-stating your results in broad terms
- Is it what you expected?
- Do your results agree with those of previous studies?
- Lessons for theory, practice, and future research
- Conclusion

Highlight what is novel (worth publishing)



Get someone to read your draft and give feedback

For some families this is expressed, for example in Shakespeare's King Lear, where among other themes the play treats a relatively enduring pattern of intra-family relationships that does not easily adapt to change.

On average each practice comprised 24 patients.

Some traps to avoid

Poor grammar or punctuation

Incoherent lists

How to write a list

Kinds of list

Noun list

- ▶ I bought an apple, an orange, a banana, and a latte

Verb list

- ▶ I consulted with my colleagues, wrote a draft paper, and circulated it for comment

Adjective list

- ▶ She is pretty, charming, and a pleasure to work with.

Adverb list

- ▶ We listened carefully, silently, and for a long time.

Identify what the stem is

- ▶ I bought: an apple, an orange, a banana, **and** a latte
- ▶ I: consulted with my colleagues, wrote a draft paper, **and** circulated it for comment
- ▶ She is: pretty, charming, **and** a pleasure to work with.
- ▶ We listened: carefully, silently, **and** for a long time.

Where people go wrong

Not all elements follow from the stem

The final “and” is missing (particularly in long, complex lists)

“As well as” supplements the list, rather than being part of it

- ▶ We took sleeping bags, tents, and food, as well as enough water to last 3 days.

For example:

All of the measures included in the study were self report, generated through self-assessment, and as a result were subject to bias.

All of the measures included in the study were self report and generated through self-assessment, and as a result were subject to bias.

Because all of the measures included in the study were self report and generated through self-assessment, they were subject to bias.

Another example

The variables of gender, relationship of caregiver to care recipient, types of residence, e.g., co-residence, race and ethnicity and the caregiving context should be considered

The variables of gender, relationship of the caregiver to the care recipient, co-residence versus separate residence, race and ethnicity, and other aspects of the caregiving context should be considered

Variables that should be considered include gender, relationship of the caregiver to the care recipient, whether or not the caregiver lives with the care recipient, race and ethnicity, and other aspects of the caregiving context.

What tense do you use?

Past tense for what a study did

- ▶ A and B (2009) found ...

Present perfect for what lots of studies did

- ▶ Many studies have found ...

Present tense for results

- ▶ ... that caregivers are highly stressed.

Unless you want to refer to specifics

- ▶ Black's (1989) reported that many of the caregivers in his study felt stressed and upset much of the time.

Be careful with terms like

Moderation

- ▶ A variable moderates a relationship between two other variables
 - ▶ Gender moderates the relationship between height and weight: the relationship between height and weight is stronger for men than for women.

Males and females

- ▶ Use men and women where you can

What's the difference between

That and which

- ▶ The house that Jack built had a red roof.
- ▶ The house, which Jack built, had a red roof.

Punctuation

Semi-colons separate whole sentences

▶ We set off in the car; it was a long way to the river.

Commas set off material that could be taken out
without destroying the sentence

Apostrophes



"I'm sorry, honey, but we can't
be taking in every stray comma
you bring home..."

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