

# How to write a scientific paper ?

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**Is it true ?**

**Publish or perish**



EIN KLARER  
AUSWÄRTSSIEG, SO VIEL  
STEHT FEST, ABER SIE  
WOLLEN DOCH WOHL NICHT  
ETWA AUCH NOCH DIE  
MANNSCHAFTEN VON  
MIR WISSEN ?!

2:6 =

**A case of an  
outside win, this is  
clear. But you will  
not now also ask  
me for the names  
of the teams.**

**Planing**

# Planing of the study - 1

- **What is my hypothesis ?**
- **What does it mean, when it is**
  - **Confirmed**
  - **Not confirmed**
  - **Indifferent**

## **Planing of the study - 2**

- **In what context does the hypothesis fits in ?**
- **This helps me to decide about the readership – Choice of the journal**

# Structure of the manuscript - 1

- **Abstract**
- **Introduction**
- **Material and Methods**
- **Results**
- **Discussion**

# Structure of the manuscript - 2

- **References**
- **Tables**
- **Figures**
- **...**
- **Cover letter, Reviewers**

# Abstract

- **The shorter, the better**
- **The last two sentences (Summary and Conclusion) are essential**
- **Not more than 250 words**
- **Reread and reread it again**

# Introduction

- **A few sentences why this study is needed - rationale**
- **What is already known**
- **Where do you want to fill the „holes“**
- **How you are going to do it**



**Should I make 4  
or 8 pieces?**

**Only make four;  
eight are too  
much for me !**

**Structure**

# Materials and Methods

- **Subjects - collective**
- **Study design (describe it very clearly – flow-chart...)**
- **Methodology - techniques**
- **Statistics**

# Results

- **Structure clearly**
- **Describe everything – only refer to Tables and Figures**
- **Number, Confidential intervals (CI)... both in text and in Table/Figure legends**

# Discussion - 1

- **Repeat shortly topic and rationale**
- **Compare your (new) findings concisely with those in the literature**
- **For each finding, outline what is added newly due to your study**

## Discussion - 2

- **A paragraph with auto-criticism („limitations of the study“)** (design, open questions...)
- **Summary und Conclusions: I prefer to make it quite broadly**
  - E.g. with „bullet points“

# References

- „Hot shots“ – probably also cite the journal you submit (narcism of the editor and reviewer)
- Cite yourself, but only the relevant papers
- As few review articles as possible
- 1-2 articles of the actual year
- Not more than 25 references

# Tables

- **Not too much on it - no „my god“  
Tables !**
- **Put legend separately**
- **Must always be self-explanatory**

# Figures

- **Is crucial for acceptance !**
- **They are scanned and shown on meetings by readers**
- **Choose x- and y-axis carefully**
- **THMs must be seen in seconds**
- **Legend – see for Tables**

# Writing of the paper

- **How I do it myself ?**
  - **Abstract (helps me to set priorities)**
  - **Introduction (stream-lining)**
  - **Materials and Methods**
  - **Discussion and results back and forth (writing „results“ is boring)**

# Selection of journal

- **Select readership**
  - **Scientific community**
  - **„Politics“ (local, international)**
  - **Language (German, English...)**
- **Impact factors (IF) are not everything, but important for your academic career...**

# Choice of journal - 1

	<u>IF</u>	<u>cited T/2 (y)</u>
• JAGS	2.9	7.4
• Age & Ageing	1.7	7.4
• Aging Clin Exp Res	1.4	5.3
• Exp Gerontol	2.5	4.6
• Gerontology	1.4	7.6

## Choice of journal - 2

	<u>IF</u>	<u>cited T/2 (y)</u>
• Am J Geriat Psych	2.4	3.9
• Dement Geriatr Cogn	2.3	2.8
• Int J Geriatr Psych	1.8	4.7
• J Gerontol – Biol	1.9	4.0

## Choice of journal - 3

- **Z Gerontol Geriatr** **0.43**
- Eur J Geriatrics
- Geriatrie Journal
- Geriatrie Praxis
- .. Also important „politically“



# **„How to deal with reviewers comments... - 1**

- **Accepted**
  - Be happy
- **Accepted with minor revisions**
  - Just do them
- **Accepted with major revisions**
  - ...
- **Rejected**
  - Ask for reviews

# **„How to deal with reviewers comments... - 2**

- **Accepted with major revisions**
  - **How fast should the paper be published ?**
  - **What do the coauthors mean ?**
  - **Is the reviewer o.k. or a pain in the ... ?**

## **„How to deal with reviewers comments... - 3**

- **Does the reviewer adds new perspectives ?**
- **If yes, probably rewrite the whole paper; sometimes even split it and send it to two journals**

# **„How to deal with reviewers comments... -**

- **How do I recognize the „nasty“ reviewer ?**
  - **Challenges the whole statistics**
  - **Wants to increase N**
  - **Criticizes „lay-out“ (.... Refine English)**

# Never do !!

- „Modulate“ statistics
- Copy (paragraphs...)
- One time ist everytimes

**Look – a dead  
bird**

KUCK  
MAL - EIN Toter  
VOGEL!

**Where ?**

WO?



**THM**

**Keep focused**