

# How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper:

## The Step-by-Step Guide



**A straightforward, no-nonsense guide,  
this book shows you how to publish, not perish.**

**Dr. Luz Claudio**

Write Science Now Publishing Co.  
San Juan, PR, New York, NY

## **Exercise 7a: Analyze your options for potential journals**

Compare three journals that you are considering.

### **Example, for illustration purposes only.**

**Journal 1:** *Journal of Effects and Consequences*

**Impact Factor:** 5.6

**1. What is the intended readership of this journal?**

*Statisticians and computer scientists. Members of the Society of Effects and Consequences.*

**2. What is the focus or theme of this journal?**

*Publication of statistical methods. Education and training of statisticians on these methods. Methods for proving and disproving experimental outcomes. Use of statistical methods in new settings and applications.*

**3. Circle the kind of paper you are intending to write: Review, Commentary, Case Report, Original Research, Meta-analysis? Does this journal publish this kind of paper? \_\_\_No \_\_\_X\_\_\_Yes**

**4. Examine the list of editors. Are there any names of researchers in your field? Is there anyone you know or whose work you follow? If so, list them here:**

*Dr. Maria C. Marta, University of Lara, works on computational methods for evidence-based science.*

**5. Examine recent publications. Are there any papers similar to yours? If so, what would your paper add to the current literature?**

*Marta MC et al, 2013. A new method to test the consequences of action A on small datasets with multiple sources. J Effects & Conseq Vol 123: 555-570 They showed a method that only worked with small datasets of 10 or fewer data points, but ours can be used on databases of any size.*

**6. Time to publication of some recent sample articles in the journal (within the last two years of publication).**

Article	Date submitted	Date accepted	Month published	Number of months to publication
1	1/2/13	10/5/13	11/13	11 months
2	3/13/14	8/1/14	11/14	8 months
3	8/4/13	2/8/14	6/14	10 months
4	1/18/14	8/19/14	10/14	10 months
				Average number of months: 9.75

**7. Pros of publishing in this journal**

**Cons of publishing in this journal**

<i>I am a member of the Society</i>	<i>Has a slower time to publication than Journal #2</i>
<i>It has the highest impact factor in the field</i>	<i>It is not open access</i>
<i>Has the best audience for this paper</i>	<i>It has a word limit of only 1,000 words for original research papers</i>

**Exercise 7b: Analyze your options for potential journals: Journal 1**  
Compare three journals that you are considering. Write your options here:

Journal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Impact Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the intended readership of this journal?

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2. What is the focus or theme of this journal?

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3. Circle the kind of paper are you intending to write, i.e., Review, Commentary, Case Report, Original Research, Meta-analysis? Does this journal publish this kind of paper?

No       Yes

4. Examine the list of editors. Are there any names of researchers in your field? Is there anyone you know or whose work you follow? If so, list them here:

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5. Examine recent publications. Are there any papers similar to yours? If so, what would your paper add to the current literature?

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**6. Time to publication of some recent sample articles in the journal.**

Article	Date submitted	Date accepted	Month published	Number of months to publication
1				
2				
3				
4				
				Average: months

**7. Pros of publishing in this journal**

**Cons of publishing in this journal**


You may go to [www.drluzclaudio.com](http://www.drluzclaudio.com) and download the forms for the following exercises, which you will be able to customize to fill in.

For the companion online course, *Write Science Now*, go to [www.WriteScienceNow.com](http://www.WriteScienceNow.com).

**Exercise 7c: Analyze your options for potential journals: Journal 2**

Compare three journals that you are considering. Write your options here:

Journal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Impact Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What is the intended readership of this journal?**

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**2. What is the focus or theme of this journal?**

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**3. Circle the kind of paper are you intending to write, i.e., Review, Commentary, Case Report, Original Research, Meta-analysis? Does this journal publish this kind of paper?**

No       Yes

**4. Examine the list of editors. Are there any names of researchers in your field? Is there anyone you know or whose work you follow? If so, list them here:**

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**5. Examine recent publications. Are there any papers similar to yours? If so, what would your paper add to the current literature?**

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**6. Time to publication of some recent sample articles in the journal.**

Article	Date submitted	Date accepted	Month published	Number of months to publication
1				
2				
3				
4				
				Average: months

**7. Pros of publishing in this journal**

**Cons of publishing in this journal**


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**Exercise 7d: Analyze your options for potential journals: Journal 3**

Compare three journals that you are considering. Write your options here:

Journal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Impact Factor: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What is the intended readership of this journal?**

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**2. What is the focus or theme of this journal?**

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**3. Circle the kind of paper are you intending to write, i.e., Review, Commentary, Case Report, Original Research, Meta-analysis? Does this journal publish this kind of paper?**

No       Yes

**4. Examine the list of editors. Are there any names of researchers in your field? Is there anyone you know or whose work you follow? If so, list them here:**

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**5. Examine recent publications. Are there any papers similar to yours? If so, what would your paper add to the current literature?**

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**6. Time to publication of some recent sample articles in the journal.**

Article	Date submitted	Date accepted	Month published	Number of months to publication
1				
2				
3				
4				
				Average: months

**7. Pros of publishing in this journal**

**Cons of publishing in this journal**


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