
EDITORIAL

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Editors and reviewers are reputed to be busy people, but that is a fiction. The *JRME* editors and reviewers lead dreary lives of unremitting sloth. If you plan to submit a manuscript to the *JRME*, here are several easy ways that you can bring stimulation and challenge to some idle minds.

First, do not bother to read the journal itself and pay no attention to what the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Third Edition) has to say about preparing a manuscript. Be a free spirit. Try to convey the impression that you are not a person to be bothered with petty details of style and format.

Second, see if you can give your manuscript the portentous tone of a dissertation or project report. Start with the title; it should be as long as possible. Mention every variable you studied, along with the names of the instruments you used. If the title still seems too short, try adding "A Report of a Study Designed in an Attempt to Investigate Various Factors That Might Be Associated With . . ." If that is not enough, add the name of the institution and the city where you did the study. Either omit the abstract altogether (you're a busy person, right?) or, better, stretch it out to at least 250 words so that you can allude to results that are not included in the body of the report, thereby providing the reviewers with more of a challenge. In setting up tables and figures, just remember that they should not be easily interpreted on their own. Verbatim copies of computer printouts usually make wonderful tables. If a table seems too stark, you can add a dozen or so cryptic footnotes. Most tables should be discussed entry-by-entry in the text, but the virtuoso writer will include at least one table or figure that is not cited anywhere.

Third, do not let the organization be obvious. Avoid headings or subheadings that might reveal too much. Use *Introduction* at the beginning and put *Results* somewhere in the middle, if you wish, but report the results all the way to the end, as they occur to you. Aim at a stream-of-consciousness effect. If you want to give the purpose of the study, follow Agatha Christie's style and tell your secret at the end. You can, however, give the manuscript a nice absurdist touch by omitting any statement of purpose.

Finally, do not let anyone else read your manuscript before you submit it. After all, who are you writing for if not yourself? Proofreading the manuscript carefully and letting colleagues look it over might suggest that you were eager to have it published. If you follow the simple suggestions above, you will not need to worry about publication. And you can know the satisfaction of having given some extra work to the editors and reviewers.