

Hannah Beks' quick tips on writing a research paper

Getting started

- Be clear on the type of paper you are intending to write
- Read the journal's guidelines to see if your paper fits within their scope
- Consult your co-authors

Choosing a journal

- Some things to consider when selecting a journal include:
 - Alignment with your area of research or profession
 - Journal metrics
 - Where the journal is indexed
 - Associated costs
 - Publishing model
- Seek advice from academic librarians, colleagues and senior academics in your field

Writing

- Focus on getting words on a page – it doesn't matter if it's perfect!
- Aim for productive writing; half an hour of productive writing is better than half a day of unproductive writing
- Map out the structure of your paper based on your selected journal's author guidelines
- Review reporting guidelines through the [EQUATOR network](#)
- Be open to feedback
- Invest time in refining the pitch in your cover letter
- Set yourself a clear deadline

Determining authorship

- Refer to authorship guidelines:
 - [The NHMRC \(2019\) Authorship: A guide supporting the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research](#)
 - [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#)
- Have a conversation with your team before you begin writing
- Be clear and transparent with your team regarding what constitutes authorship and what is required from them

Dealing with rejection

- Don't take rejection personally
- Prepare for rejection by having a list of 3-5 potential journals to submit to
- Try to take rejection as a learning opportunity