

Do's and Don'ts in Preparing Publications on Interprofessional Research
Mo Yee Lee, PhD, Monit Cheung, PhD, LCSW, and Michael Spencer, PhD (©2018)
 Updated periodically at: https://www.uh.edu/socialwork/New_research/cwep/title-iv-e/Journals-Impact-Factor/

DO	DON'T
PREPARING	
Work with colleagues or seek advice from researchers of other disciplines	Work alone
Review journal acceptance criteria	Repeat previous research without a new contribution
Highlight the significance of the selected topic	Use a generic topic without paying attention to the mission of the journal
Provide current literature (with statistics if available) to support the prevalence of a specific problem or the significance of studying a specific population	Skip problem definitions
Include IRB approval statement	Lump multiple populations into a group without specific rationale (e.g., Asians)
Adopt a unique title to reflect the main theme of the manuscript	Borrow the same title from other pubs or use a generic title
List key words to highlight additional subthemes and concepts	Disregard the instruction about not to use key words already on the manuscript title
CONTENTS	
Describe the conceptual or research framework	Use a sample not representative (e.g., proportionally to the sampling frame)
Specify inclusion and exclusion criteria	Disregard potential selection biases and lack human subject protection procedures
Explain why studying this specific problem or population and use literature to support	State that this problem or population was never studied
Describe variables and pilot data to validate measures	Omit important variables without explanations
Use standardized measures supported by existing validity and reliability statistics	Negate to provide an explanation of variables in the framework that is not used in the analysis
Define outcome variable(s)	Mix dependent and independent variables mistakenly in the statistics
Present findings in a systematic manner	Use wrong data analysis methods or statistics
Discuss limitations	Generalize the findings without considering the study limitations
Identify the contribution of the findings to the field	End the manuscript without a future implication
Draw conclusion from findings with support	Include a conclusion with no reference to the study findings
STYLE & STRUCTURE	
Use referencing style required by the journal	Poor layout (typographical/grammatical, inconsistencies)
Connect findings to answer the research questions	Use of jargon, abbreviations, undefined terms
Do spell check and seek editorial comments	Present information under the wrong section (e.g., findings presented in the Method section)
REVIEW PROCESS	
Serve as a reviewer for journals in your areas of expertise and publication interest	Use outdated literature without a good rationale
Review your own manuscript from a reviewer's perspective; think as if you were a busy reviewer, what review comments you would provide	Forget to proofread and spellcheck after revising the contents for resubmission based on reviewers' comments
Seek external reviewers' feedback to further polish your manuscript in which the uniqueness and key contribution of this research is underscored	Blame the reviewers for not carefully reading your manuscript
Summarize your response to address each of the reviewers' comments	Ignore some of the reviewers' comments in resubmission