

Dissemination of Research Findings

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Moving The Story of Hard Work into Text

- Hypothesis from theory → study design → data collection → data analysis → discussion of results
- Two versions
 - What you thought you would write about when you planned your study.
 - What it now makes sense to write about, now that the study is completed.

Before Writing Anything -- Analyze Your Data

- **Center your manuscript around the findings that you found, not the findings that you hoped to find.**
- **Tell what you have learned, not all the false leads or mistakes.**
- **If your results suggests a compelling framework for reorganizing the purpose of your study, so be it.**

Diversify your Publication Targets

- **Peer-reviewed conferences with proceedings**
- **Scholarly, peer-reviewed journals**
 - Convey the research that you conducted
- **Professional practitioner journals**
 - Interpret your research for practice
- **Yearbooks of professional organizations; book chapters**

Writing Style

- Identify the intended journal or publication route before you write.
- Write and rewrite to convey both accuracy and clarity.
 - Follow the organizational standard or format of the intended journal or publication.
 - Write simply, in a linear narrative fashion.

Remember your Audience

Portions of educational publications may be read by non-experts.

- Craft the introduction and discussion sections so that an audience wider than subscribers can understand what was learned and why they should care.**
- The methods and results section generally presume more expertise.**

Components of a Manuscript

- **Introduction**

- Begins with broad statement (“Over the last 15 years, research on children’s learning of mathematics ...”)
- But becomes more specific, until you introduce the focus for your manuscript or study. Summarizes current knowledge prior to your work.
- Answers the questions, “Why does this add?” and “Who cares?”

Components of a Manuscript

- **Method**

- **Specific, conveys factual information telling what you did and why**
- **What did you do**
- **Who did you do it to/with**
- **What analysis did you carry out**
- **Occurrences that could have influenced the validity of your results are reported**

Components of a Manuscript

- **Results***

- What did you find -- method and results of data analysis
- Use tables and charts to augment text

- **Discussion***

- Begins with implications drawn from your study
- Moves to broader meanings to convey relevance and importance

*Combined in short manuscripts

Rewrite and Rewrite

- **Difficult to edit your own writing.**
 - Put it away and come back later.
 - Ask someone else to read it.
 - Rewrite to address the confusion of your reader (as opposed to explaining verbally as the reviewers won't have that advantage).
- **Be attentive to detail and be willing to restructure sections.**

Revise and Resubmit

- **Almost no manuscript is accepted as submitted.**
- **Rare to have a manuscript accepted with only a request to attend to some comments from the reviewers.**
- **Be pleased if your result is a request to revise and resubmit.**

Revising for Resubmission

- **It's okay to whine and complain to your friends that a reviewer(s) was an idiot.**
 - **But then pay special attention to criticisms or suggestions made by more than one reviewer or mentioned by the editor.**
- **Rewrite to address mis-readings.**
- **Include an explanatory cover letter with resubmission.**

Dissemination via Presentation

- **Talk about your work.**
 - **Submit a proposal for an individual paper session at a conference organized by professional organizations (see web sites for information about deadlines and expectations).**
 - **Volunteer for brown bag lunches or colloquia.**

Dissemination via Presentation

- **Organize a symposium related to your topic.**
 - Invite panelists who are known to be doing good work (to their advantage to be speaking as well).
 - Recognize that they may want to be chair or a discussant.
 - Even if you are turned down, you conveyed information about yourself and your work.

Dissemination via Presentation

- **Organize a colloquia or brown bag lunch and invite others to speak.**
 - They will be flattered by your interest.
 - Your colleagues or your department chair may be more impressed by your work if they see who else is doing it (and that these folks “know” you).

Other Venues for Dissemination

- **Publicize what you have done.**
 - **Contact the public affairs office at your campus.**
 - **Tell them your story and ask them what is required for a press release.**
 - **Place it on your web site.**

Professional Organizations

- American Educational Research Association
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- Benjamin Banneker Association
- National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics
- Psychology of Mathematics Education (North American chapter)
- Mathematical Association of America (RUME, RCME)
- Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators