

# Tips on getting published

9 October 2025

## Development in Practice

Stimulating Thought for Action



**DSAA**  
Development Studies Association of Australia

# Overview

*NOTE: Journals will differ, but many of the guidelines we'll discuss today will apply to most journals*

DiP publishes:

- Research articles (6000 words)
- Practice notes (3000 words)
- Viewpoints (3000 words)

Authors should:

- Check to see if their article fits the Aims & Scope
- Follow the Instructions to Authors

# What do editors look for?

- Cohesive argument
- Up-to-date references, i.e., within the last 5 years
- Appropriate structure (literature review, discussion section that references the literature, etc.)
- Adherence to the journal's Aims and Scope
- Sound and ethical methodology (including informed consent)
- Overall readability and flow
- Consideration of obvious factors that are relevant to the article, e.g., counter arguments.
- Established contribution to the field



# Have you considered gender?

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- *Articles are strengthened by considering social relations, such as:*
  - *Gender*
  - *Disability*
  - *Socio-economic differences*
  - *Class*
  - *Caste*
  - *Ethnicities*
  - *Education*
  - *Age*
  - *and intersectionalities between these.*



# Structure: Research Articles

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- **Title** (no more than 15 words)
- **Introduction**
- **Discussion of context/problem**
- **Literature review**
- **Methodology**
- **Results/Discussion**
- **Conclusion**



# Introduction

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- Should:
  - clearly establish the article's **aims**
  - be structured in a way that it easy to follow
  - pique the reader's interest.
- Should not:
  - be too long
  - include the literature review
  - Include findings.

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# Discussion of context/problem

- Should:
  - briefly provide background information or **context**
  - Introduce **the problem**.
- For shorter articles:
  - the context can be given as part of the introduction
  - the problem can be established in relation to the literature.



# Literature review

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- Should
  - Introduce your literature
  - cite up-to-date, global literature on your topic (within the last 5 years is preferable)
  - only include literature that is relevant to your findings
- Should not:
  - Discuss your findings
  - Introduce obvious or well-known information (e.g., that COVID-19 resulted in lockdowns)
  - Include literature that is off-topic or not related to your findings



# Methodology

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- Should discuss:
  - How and why your participant sample was selected and offer a breakdown of demographics, such as gender, age, profession.
  - Informed consent: Who from? How?
  - Theoretical considerations.
  - Data collection.
  - Methods of data analysis.



# Results/Discussion



Present the study's findings.



Link them clearly to the **literature** that has already been introduced in the literature review.



A **discussion of the literature** is **necessary** in this section. It is not enough to present your findings alone.

# Conclusion

Contribution	Indicate what your study contributes to the field (i.e., the literature, as outlined).
Limitations	Discuss the study's limitations and present areas for future research.
Practical outcomes	Reveal the practical implications of your research.

# Double-masked peer review

- Two independent, expert referees will review your work anonymously—that is, without knowing who you are or you knowing who they are
- The process may take several months
- Reviewers volunteer their time
- They provide feedback and a recommendation.





# Recommendations

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- Accept
- Minor revision
- Major revision
- Revise and resubmit
- Reject.

*These recommendations will be sent back to you, and you will be invited to make revisions and submit a revised copy.*

# Revising and Resubmitting

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Your revised copy should be:

- submitted with a track changes version showing all the changes made in response to the reviewer comments
- submitted with a clean copy with no highlighting
- accompanied by a table of responses to the recommendations explaining how they have or not been adopted in the revised draft.

*Your revised paper and table for responses will likely be returned to the reviewer(s), for their approval or to recommend further changes.*



Questions?

Get in touch with the *Development in Practice* Editorial team on

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