

AuthorAID Tips of the Week

#51-#75

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Tip of the Week #51

If possible, choose a research topic you care deeply about. After all, you will spend weeks, months, or years on it.

Tip of the Week #52

Meeting deadlines sometimes is not feasible for authors. If an editor gives you a deadline for resubmitting a paper, but you cannot meet it, ask for an extension and ensure that you meet the new deadline.

Tip of the Week #53

For prestige, some authors want to list as co-authors some researchers whose publications are well known. However, researchers should be included as co-authors only if they have contributed substantially to the research.

Tip of the Week #54

When applying for scholarships or fellowships, consider learning the backgrounds of previous recipients, if available. Doing so may help you understand what background is suitable and thus ensure you don't apply for grants for which you would not be a reasonable candidate.

Tip of the Week #55

If you submit a paper to a journal that says it normally contacts authors within a given length of time, but much more time has passed and you still haven't heard back, what should you do? Consider contacting the editor to ask what is happening.

Tip of the Week #56

One strategy for writing concisely is to use verbs, not nouns made from them. For instance, instead of writing "Our paper provides an explanation of the problem," just write "Our paper explains the problem."

Tip of the Week #57

Writing book reviews for journals can be a service to your field. But before reviewing a book, ensure that you have thoroughly read its contents.

Tip of the Week #58

The abstract usually is the first major section of a paper to be read, but it should usually be the last to be revised.

Tip of the Week #59

If you quote material from a publication, remember to indicate the page where you got the quote. Do not expect readers to look for the quote in a lengthy article or book.

Tip of the Week #60

Beware of translating your native language directly into English. Sometimes, the translation may be awkward. If in doubt, seek a second opinion from a colleague with strong English language-ability.

Tip of the Week #61

One way to make writing more concise is to delete needless words. For example, instead of writing "The dye was red in color," just write "The dye was red."

Tip of the Week #62

The title of a paper should have the fewest possible words that adequately indicate the contents. Extra phrases such as "a study of" or "observations on" usually should not be included.

Tip of the Week #63

Inaccurate references can make a good paper lose its shine. And if authors whose work you cite happen to be your peer reviewers, inaccurate references to their work will not impress them favorably.

Tip of the Week #64

One strategy for writing readably is using simple or common words. For example, instead of writing "This is a fundamental principle," just write "This is a basic principle."

Tip of the Week #65

Beware of using words that appear to be synonyms but are not. For instance, you can write "English usage", but there is no such thing as "antibiotic usage". "Usage" usually refers to the conventions of a language whereas "use" refers to the condition of being used (for example, antibiotic use).

Tip of the Week #66

One strategy for writing concisely is to condense wordy phrases. For instance, instead of writing "In the event that the color changes, the result is positive," just write "If the color changes, the result is positive."

Tip of the Week #67

Your paper's title should not only draw readers to your paper. It should also help people identify your paper when searching databases. Therefore, it should contain words that convey the topic clearly.

Tip of the Week #68

Most or all pieces of research have limitations. It is better to note major limitations yourself than to have reviewers and editors identify them.

Tip of the Week #69

Following a journal's instructions to authors is important. In addition, if a journal has publicly available instructions for reviewers, consider reading them to have an idea of how your paper may be reviewed.

Tip of the Week #70

Writing a high-quality scholarly paper demands adequate preparation. The more time you spend in preparation, the less time you are likely to spend in the writing process.

Tip of the Week #71

If you see writing as torture, writing will torture you. Have fun writing your scholarly articles.

Tip of the Week #72

If you find it difficult to begin, continue, or complete a writing project, consider setting aside times for your writing. Choose the times of day according to when you function best.

Tip of the Week #73

To help make your writing readable, in general avoid very long sentences and paragraphs.

Tip of the Week #74

If others have provided help with your paper but do not qualify as authors, thank them in the acknowledgments. However, before doing so, obtain their permission.

Tip of the Week #75

Proofreading is a useful step in the writing process. To avoid distraction while proofreading, ensure you are in a quiet place.