

Additional points from the Young Members Committee Panel Discussion, “Ask the Editor”
PSNA 2008 Annual Meeting, Pullman, WA

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Please reference the PowerPoint slides used during the discussion for additional information.

- Know who the pioneers were in your field. Make a point of finding the oldest relevant literature. This may involve tracking down the references of your references, as all papers don't appear in all search engines.
- Referencing points
 - It may be better to focus your referencing than to over reference or include papers in your references that you don't actually use. Use landmark papers or well done reviews. Pick key, appropriate references.
 - You can't always trust everything you read. Be critical of content and conclusions.
 - Avoid excessive self citation.
- Sufficient material for a publication
 - LPU = Least Publishable Unit
 - Depends on the subject, the content of the research, the journal, many variables...confer with your advisor, superior or co-authors to determine when publication is appropriate and what type of publication to pursue
 - Try to avoid the 'slice and dice' approach to publication
 - Different journals designate different types of material as appropriate for publication.
 - Letters/ Short Communications – may consist of significant results that you want to get into the literature ASAP, which you then plan to later develop. May be an incomplete work but will be followed by a full paper.
 - Rapid Communication – small and tight, but a complete work. Not just preliminary data. Could be expanded upon later, but may not need to be.
- Plagiarism/ Self Plagiarism
 - C&E News Article: Sophie L. Rovner “Fraud Busters” June 16, 2008, pp 50-55.
 - <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/86/8624sci1.html>
 - Discusses image manipulation as well as unethical data and content.
- Content
 - Never state the obvious – it is assumed
 - Everyone whose name is on the paper should have read it and reviewed it before submission.
 - Some suggestions from an audience member/ reviewer regarding writing style (if you are unfamiliar with these concepts, check a style guide such as the ones listed below):
 - First person vs traditional third person
 - Present tense vs past tense
 - Active verbs vs passive verbs
 - Style Guides suggested during the panel discussion (both are relatively inexpensive and easily obtainable online or in most bookstores)
 - “The Elements of Style” by William Strunk and E. B. White. The 4th edition is the most current and the following link gives some history for the book: <http://www.dailywritingtips.com/strunk-and-whites-the-elements-of-style/> This text is highly compact but relevant.
 - “The Holt Handbook” by Laurie Kirszner and Stephen R Mandell. Available in pocket and desk versions. Various editions. This text is longer, but is a thorough reference for many elements of the English language.

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- Cover letters – your way to sell your paper
 - Allows you the opportunity to add a personal note to the paper or to explain why you chose the given journal for your publication.
 - Be succinct
- Response/ Rejection Letters
 - Many reasons that a paper may not be accepted to a given journal – may not be directly due to the content or quality of the paper.
 - Journal space limitations
 - Relevance or significance of the paper to the journal
- Resubmission of a paper - If a paper is rejected by one journal, it may be accepted by another.
 - Be sure to change formatting before submitting to another journal.
 - Do not submit the same paper to two journals simultaneously
 - Do not submit your paper to a new journal until it has been withdrawn or rejected from the first journal to which it was submitted