

Abstract Writing & Research Paper

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Abstract

- Short summary of research paper
- 1 paragraph (150-250 words)
- No quotes
- Gist of the paper
- Key points
- Facilitates readers to know the direction
- Search engines & bibliographic databases

Abstract Information

- **Context/** background information; **general topic; specific topic** of research
- **key question(s)/ problem**
- **what's already known**
- **main reason(s), rationale, goals**
- **research method(s)**
- **findings, results**
- **significance**

Sample Abstract (Humanities)

- Sentence 1. context and topic clarification
- Sentence 2. other essential/ related information.
- Sentence 3-5 previous historical research
- Sentence 6 answers to implied questions (What? Why?)
- Sentence 7-8 method(s) & analysis
- Sentence 9-10 significance

Structured Abstract (Science)

OBJECTIVE: Introductory sentence. Purpose of the study

METHODS: What was the study like? Who were the respondents/ participants? How were they classified? How was the survey conducted? On how many respondents? What was the procedure adopted? How was the analysis done?

RESULTS: How many respondents were taken for the survey? What was the purpose of conducting the survey? What was their age? What came out of the survey for different respondents? What was the outcome? What did you derive from the information received?

CONCLUSIONS: What is the final outcome? What is/ are the final suggestion(s)?

Why this *Kolaveri* about Teaching Vowel Sounds at HKG level?

Abstract

There is an aggressive rage/ haste (*Kolaveri*) in India to teach English sounds (especially in English medium schools) at an early age because of the high expectations of the urban elite and upper and lower middle class parents; infact, it has percolated down to the more aware and exposed lower classes as well. The present article is based on the teaching of vowel sounds in one of the English books used at the Higher Kindergarten level in most of the public schools in Jaipur. The first part of the paper discusses how the teaching of vowel sounds is undertaken at this level through the book *Step Up with English Primer*. This is followed by a discussion of how teaching from such books which give incorrect information can distort the very foundation of the students and also embed wrong learning. The paper concludes by suggesting some solutions to the teaching of sounds, as these are considered to be the base of English language learning.

Key words: aggressive rage, expectations, vowel sounds, foundation, embed, solutions

Submission Protocol

- 1. Adherence to the scope and objectives of the paper:** If unsure, ask the Editor to consider its suitability for the journal
- 2. Follow strictly the editorial policy and author guidelines** and formatting requirements. Many submissions are rejected simply because they don't fulfil requirements
- 3. Demonstrate your familiarity with the journal:** Read at least one copy of the target journal and add appropriate references from the journal to your paper, if possible
- 4. Ego of the Reviewers:** Many reviewers look first to your reference list to check if they appear there!!
- 5. Check submission method:** Electronic / Manuscript Central / Hard Copy

The Journey of an Article

- A. Initial scanning by the Editors – 2 to 3 weeks
- B. Selection of reviewers: (if not an outright rejection) – 2 to 4 weeks
- C. Review process – 2 to 3 Double blind reviews – 6 to 10 weeks
- D. Decision letter 1: a) Reject – 50%, b) Revise and resubmit- 40%, or c) Accept – 10%.
- E. Revision comments from reviewers – 1-2 weeks

The Journey of an Article (Cont'd)

F. Editor scanning – 1 -2 weeks

G. Second review (Double blind) – 4- 6 weeks

H. Decision letter 2: 1) Rejection, 2) Conditional acceptance, 3) More reviews, 4) Accept – 2 to 3 weeks

I. Proof & publication – 2 to 12 months

What Referees Look For

- 1. Suitability:** Does the research focus and structure follow the journal protocol including correct length. Are the findings original and important
- 2. Research depth:** Theoretical/empirical soundness
- 3. Structure:** Is the paper presented in clear, logical and step by step way in accordance with the journal style
- 4. Methods & Results:** Is the methodology and analysis appropriate for the research and data support the conclusion
- 5. Technical correctness:** The quality of the diagrams, tables, referencing and other details
- 6. Overall:** In what way does the paper contribute to the ever-evolving scholarly discourse?

Dealing with Rejection

- 1. Everyone has been rejected** at least once. 50% of papers submitted in Science Journals do not get published.
- 2. Reignite your spirits:** Most journals provide detailed comments. Utilise and improve your paper based on these feedback and re-submit to another journal.

Dealing with Revision

- Don't ignore the reviewers or editor no matter how stupid they are: Respond quickly
- Tailor your revision notes around the reviewer comments
- Number the responses or keep them in the same order as the reviewer comments
- Repeat the reviewer comments then respond to them
- Help the reviewer navigate through the revised paper by telling him/her where the changes are

Dealing with Revision (Cont'd)

- **Revisions are inevitable:** Put as much effort into the revision as the original submission
- You do not have to follow all advice. Explain why you didn't follow any advice given
- The Editor generally provides guidance in case of contradictory reviews
- Submit a separate document addressing the reviewer's comments and your responses verbatim

Common Mistakes

1. Purpose of the paper not highlighted
2. Inadequate literature review
3. 'Convenience' sampling not adequately justified
4. Appropriateness of the statistical technique not explained
5. Weak tables
6. Technical errors (in text referencing/ referencing/ spelling/ grammar etc.)
7. Discussion and conclusion not sufficiently strong

Practical Tips

- **Abstract.** Abstract is normally written as a single paragraph.
- **Key words.** Key words should preferably reflect the discipline/sub discipline and research context.
- **Introduction:** Elements of Introduction are:
 1. Stating the broad theme of the study
 2. Emphasis on the reason how research is relevant and why readers need to read
 3. Summarising the literature beginning with the most important previous studies
 4. Indicate the most important gaps/controversies and applications that the current study addresses and contributes to
 5. Reiteration of the core research problem of the study including specific research objectives and research context an indication on how the paper unfolds.

Practical Tips (Cont'd)

- **Literature Review:** Important aspects of literature review are:
 1. Critical integration of synthesis of the literature into a new connected theme.
 2. Use of 'funnel approach' by starting with a broader context and leading to a specific issue
- **Methodology:** Rational description of steps involved in doing work.
- **Results & Discussion:** For should paper these may be combined.
 1. Do not repeat the same information in tables and figures
 2. Never paste the output tables generated by statistical programs directly into an article

Other Issues

- 1. Tables and Graphs:** It is perhaps not that important 'what' the tables show, but it is important to consider 'HOW' they show. It is not necessary to review every detail in a table in the text. Focus on the main points as they relate to your research question(s).
- 2. Editing Assistance:** It is advisable to seek assistance in 'proof reading/ citation checking' or similar help as careless writing including plagiarism can undermine academic integrity.
- 3. Co-authorship and acknowledgement.** Serious care and attention needs to be paid on these matters.
- 4. Copyright:** It is common practice for scholarly journals to ask you to assign copyright to them.

Sample Comments (Acceptance)

In the present manuscript the authors have biosynthesized AgNPs using plant extracts of *Citrus maxima* and explored their antimicrobial and anticancer potential. The work has been carried out in a systematic way and the results are well reported. However, there are few minor points that need to be addressed before being considered for publication.

1. Table 2 and 3 should be replaced with a histogram figure that provides direct comparative visualization of the zone of inhibition and MIC of the microbes using various AgNPs.
2. In figure 2, the XRD peaks should be labelled with proper Bragg reflections.
3. In the antioxidant assay, vitamin C is routinely used as positive control, why the authors have used Quercetin?
4. MSS needs careful check for grammatical and typographic errors.
5. Authors need to provide the details of the DLS measurements.

Sample Comments (Rejection)

There are several grammatical and typo errors that needs to be rectified throughout the manuscript. There are serious issues of plagiarism in the whole manuscript. The whole text appears copied from different sources. Hence, I recommend rejection of the manuscript and strictly discourage submission of such kind of manuscripts.

1. In abstract, line 12, sentence starting with , “It was reported....” Appears ambiguous.
2. Intro para 1 copied from Nanodiamond Particles: Properties and Perspectives for Bioapplications Amanda M. Schrand, Suzanne A. Ciftan Hens & Olga A. Shenderova, Critical Reviews in Solid State and Materials Sciences Vol. 34 , Iss. 1-2,2009
3. Intro, para 2, the opening sentence appears, “The intensity behind...” what does the authors imply by intensity here? In the next sentence full form of DMS should be mentioned as it has appeared for the first time there.
4. Intro, para 3, all the three sentences are redundant. They all mean the same. Two of them should be removed.

What Constitutes a Good Article?

Good writing

a: **Readability** : Is the topic clearly focussed and does the analysis and arguments progress in a logical sequence?

b: **Originality**: Is the work original research or a path-breaking new approach?

c: **Rigour**: How robust is the research focus and its logical is the methodology adopted?

d: **Relevance**: Does it apply to the world of practice or pinpoint the way forward for future research?

e: **Globality**: Can the work be viewed from a global perspective?

Point of View (Thesis Statement)

- Summary of the argument you will make in the beginning of your paper
- Tells how you will interpret the significance of the topic
- Directly answers the questions asked
- Makes a claim that others might dispute

When is a Thesis Statement Required?

- analyse
- interpret
- compare
- contrast
- demonstrate cause and effect
- take a stand on an issue

Sample Thesis Statement

- 1. While World War I had many causes, the primary factors leading up to it were a new sense of nationalism and an uptick in the development of technology.**
- 2. In this paper, I will show that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution can account for all variations among different species. I will provide examples from different parts of the world and among flora and fauna to prove my point.**
- 3. Through its contrasting shades of characters, Jane Austen gives vent to her feelings about the Victorian mindset which is in stark contrast to the modern one.**
- 4. Through its contrasting river and shore scenes, Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* suggests that to find the true expression on American ideals, one must leave 'civilised' society and go back to nature.**

Any questions?

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