

WRITING AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE STUDENTS' GUIDELINE

HERA OKTADIANA, PHD, CHE



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Why do you need to write and publish?

- Writing and releasing journal articles is crucial for those aspiring to build an academic career, adhering to the 'publish and flourish' principle.
- Postgraduate students, especially those pursuing a PhD, must also prioritize publishing journal articles.
- Sharing your work through writing and publication allows you to impart beneficial knowledge to others, leaving behind a lasting legacy.
- You will gain an opportunity to receive feedback from other scholars to improve your work quality.
- You can contribute to the development of your field of study.

(Belcher, 2009; Lambert Academic Publishing, 2023; Renandya, 2022).



Photo: <https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/research-writing/2>

What are the types of publications in academic writing?

Journal articles: research papers published in academic journals that inform new discoveries or summarise existing studies. Experts check these papers before they're published (blind peer-review).

Conference proceedings: The records of papers, talks, and discussions from academic conferences. A proceeding is a great source for learning about what is new in a field, thus it helps us keep up with the latest news in a certain subject.

Books: thorough and lengthy writings that tell us a lot about a specific topic. They can be written by one person or multiple authors. They can cover many topics.

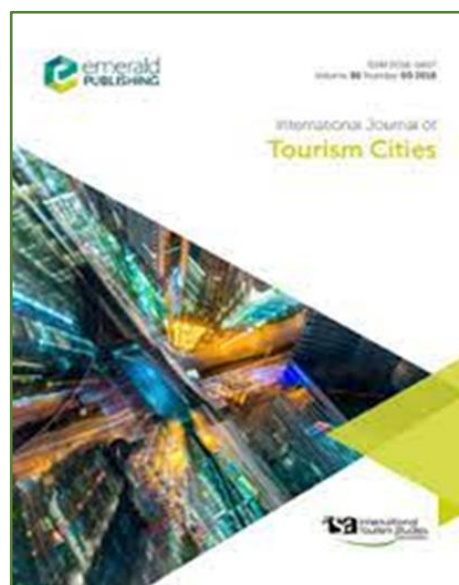
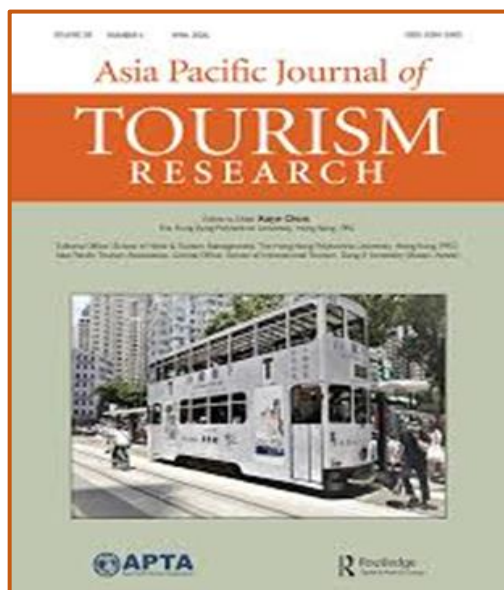
Book chapters: shorter parts of a bigger book. They dig deep into one topic or idea and are usually written by one or more authors.

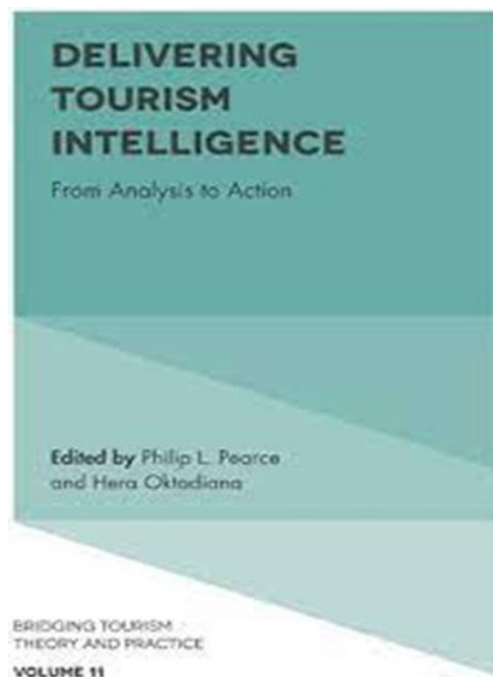
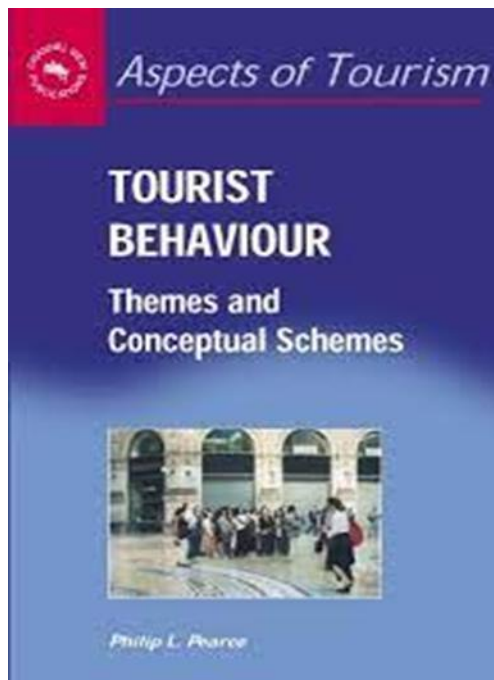
Dissertations and theses: long-form academic papers that graduate students write to show their original research.

Reports: share research findings or give suggestions for a certain group. They are helpful for governments, non-profits, or businesses to make decisions or set policies.

White papers: official documents that explain a particular issue. They are often used in government or business to help make decisions or policies.

(Belcher, 2009; Lambert Academic Publishing, 2023)





What do you need to know about writing an academic article?

- Writing a journal article is much like crafting a thesis chapter or an essay. The same rules for academic writing apply across these formats.
- To create a well-organized and coherent paper, it is important to plan what you will write and how you will write. This helps ensure a cohesive and well-written piece.
- Before you begin, select your target journal. Understand its goals and scope. Review the journal's sample articles to grasp its style and what the editors look for in a submission.
- Adhere to the journal's formatting requirements (author guidelines).
- Construct a logical framework/ structure for your article.
- Clearly explain your research, detailing your methodology and any acronyms used.
- Write in an easy-to-read and understandable manner.
- Highlight how your research builds upon previously published work within the literature. Use up-to-date and pertinent literature in your writing.
- Highlight the unique aspect of your research - emphasising its originality and novelty.

(Author Services, 2023; Belcher, 2009, 2019)

Structure of a research paper

Title: Your paper's title is crucial—it grabs the reader's attention and conveys your topic. Make it clear and engaging.

Abstract: This is a brief summary of your research, almost as vital as the title. Keep it short, straightforward, and avoid acronyms and citations.

Introduction: Explains your research context or background information on your subject, objectives, and scope, specify how your study fills in the research gaps, and encourages further reading.

Materials and Methods: Describe what you use and where you obtain the materials. Be clear and concise about your methods, sampling selection, inclusion criteria, exclusion criteria, data collection, and data analyses.

Results: Presents collected data, statistical findings, and analysis techniques (if applicable).

Discussion: Analyse the meaning of your results and align them with the literature review. The discussion often summarises the study's findings.

Conclusion: Address theoretical and practical implications of the study, any study limitations and propose further research.

Acknowledgments: Recognise all contributors (those who support your study but not part of the authors).

References: Cite all sources mentioned in the text in alphabetical order following certain guidelines (e.g. APA, Harvard).

Tables and Figures: Usually placed at the end or in a separate file. Provide clear explanations for any acronyms and abbreviations in tables and figures.

(Abbadia, 2022; Enago Academy, 2023)

Keys to positive writing experiences

- Academic writers who achieve success actively engage in the act of writing.
- The more you practice writing, the smoother, easier, more proficient, and more enjoyable it becomes.
- People who seldom write frequently argue, "I'm too busy, I don't have time."
 - "You are not too busy to write, you are busy because you do not write" (Belcher, 2009, p. 5)." (Belcher, 2009, p. 5).
- Your excuse of being busy simply underscores the fact that you are not actively writing.
- Work together with peers, whether they are from your own institution or different ones locally, nationally, or globally.

- Establish a research seminar program at your university. This program should allow both students and lecturers to showcase their writing and receive constructive feedback.
- Enhance your network by participating in conferences, either as an attendee or a presenter.
- Consider joining a writing club or enrolling in a journal writing class to further develop your skills and connections in the academic community.
- Rejection is an inevitable part of the writing journey, so don't allow it to deter you. If one journal turns down your article, another may welcome it with open arms. Accomplished authors continue to submit their work and maintain a positive attitude despite facing rejections. For instance, economist George Akerlof received three rejections before his journal article earned him a Nobel Prize.
- Achieving success as an academic writer involves pursuing your passion. Concentrate on what truly interests and captivates you.

(Belcher, 2009, 2019)

Further reading

How to Write a Research Paper: A Beginner's Guide <https://www.scribbr.com/category/research-paper/>

How to Structure an Academic Paper <https://www.gradschools.com/get-informed/student-guide/how-to-structure-an-academic-paper>

The Ultimate Guide to Writing a Research Paper <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/how-to-write-a-research-paper/>

Video

Structure of a Research Paper <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSkb7KZ5yw0>

Structure of a Research Paper - All You Need to Know! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFsnpQ0wqcM>

Checklist for writing research article

Structure		Remarks
Abstract	✓ Clearly states the purpose, methods, results, and conclusions.	
	✓ Concise and readable, usually within 250-300 words.	
	✓ Avoid acronyms and citations.	
Introduction	✓ Provides background and context for the study.	
	✓ Clearly states research objectives and/or questions.	
	✓ Highlights the significance of the study	
	✓ Underscore the position of the study amongst the existing research and how the study fills in the research gaps	
	✓ Provides an outline of the paper's structure.	
Methodology	✓ Clearly outline study design	
	✓ Specify the sampling including the criteria of the participants	
	✓ Detailed description of instruments and procedures used (e.g. questionnaire design, interview questions)	
	✓ Explain data collection	
	✓ Explain data analysis	
	✓ State the reliability and validity of the study/trustworthiness of the study	
Results	✓ Data is organized logically and clearly.	
	✓ Uses tables, graphs, and figures to support and explain the data, and label them appropriately	
	✓ Avoid interpretation and making definitive statements.	
Discussion	✓ Interpret findings in the context of the study's objectives, research questions or hypothesis	
	✓ Addresses how the results align with existing literature.	

Conclusion	✓ Summarises the main findings and restates the significance of the study	
	✓ State the implications of the results/ theoretical and practical contributions	
	✓ Acknowledge study limitations	
	✓ Suggest directions for future research	
References	✓ Follow the appropriate citation and formatting style (e.g., APA, MLA, Harvard, Chicago).	
	✓ All sources mentioned in the paper/text have corresponding references	
Others	✓ Proofread and edit for grammar, spelling, and clarity.	
	✓ Properly cite all sources and references.	
	✓ Ensure a logical flow from abstract to conclusion.	

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