

# Writing and Publishing a Research Article

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?

*Is this your first time writing  
a research article?*



?

*Have you previously written  
a research article... and  
published it?*



"Does a blog count as being published?"

?

*How did it feel getting published  
for the first time?*





*Why do you want to write a  
research article?*

?

Recognition

Feedback

Authority

Sharing

*Why do you want to publish  
a research article?*

Reputation

PhD /MA

Skills

Satisfaction

Career

?

*The article represents the writer.*



?

*How do you write a research article...  
... and get it **PUBLISHED**?*



Pre-writing

```
graph TD; A[Pre-writing] --> B[Writing]; B --> C[Post-writing];
```

Writing

Post-writing

# First of all...

you have to have:

research, data, idea, **POINT**

Your **PhD** or **MA** research is a valuable source...

# Before writing...

## Find the right journal

- Ask supervisors, colleagues, friends
- Look at published articles related to your area.



# Before writing...

## Shortlist the journals:

- General-interest vs. niche interest journal?
- International vs. regional?
- Peer reviewed / Indexed / high-impact?
- Open access vs. subscription journal?



Answers to these Qs can be found at the journal's Aim & Scope

# Before writing...

Select and get to know the journal:

- Journal style (e.g. length, referencing)
- Restrictions
- Read previously published articles

# Before writing...

What's the point?

What is the contribution?

**So, what?**

Who cares?

# Before writing...



How to find the point of your article?

**Imagine your audience**

How would you sell your idea to your audience in 90 sec?



# Before writing...

Pitch your research in 90 seconds.

# Writing...



## The Conversation

# Writing...

## In the conversation:

- Stick to the **point**
  - Don't be afraid to **explain**
    - **clarity** is key
      - Refer to what **others** have said recently.
        - Contribute something **new**.

Title

Abstract

Introduction

Literature Review

Methodology

Findings & Discussion

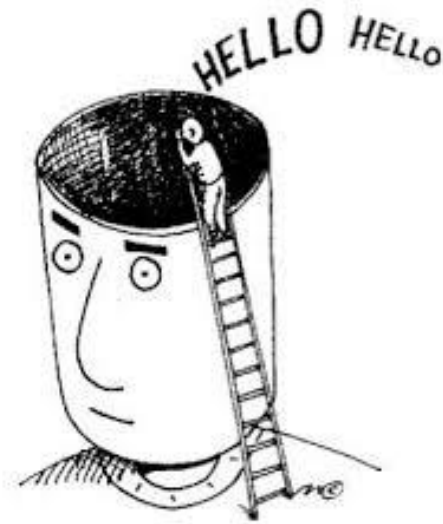
Conclusion

References

So where do we start?

IMRAD

# Beginning the work





# TINY TEXT

A structure for the writer to articulate, plan and guide their paper... a **ROAD MAP**

Plan



Guide



# ABSTRACT



Plan

Map

TINY TEXT



# Creating a **road map** Using the abstract

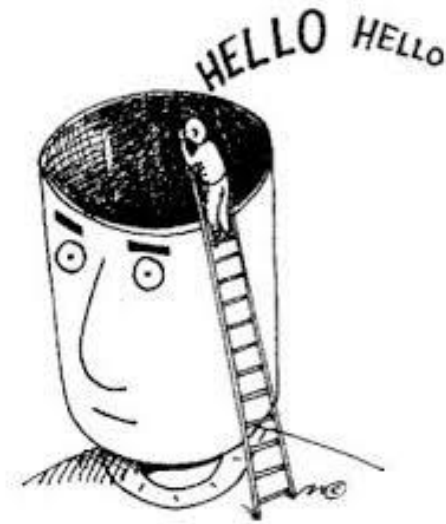
## *The 5 moves*

- **LOCATE** contextual background
- **FOCUS** aim and objective
- **ANCHOR** methods
- **REPORT** findings
- **ARGUE** discussion, conclusions (So what?)





# Writing the abstract



# Get started with the abstract

Step #1

**LOCATE:** ..... is now a significant issue (in/for)... because .... **(expand)**.

**FOCUS:** In this paper I focus on .....

**ANCHOR:** The paper draws on findings from a study of .... which used ..... in order to show that ..... **(expand)**

**REPORT:** The analysis of the findings shows that .....

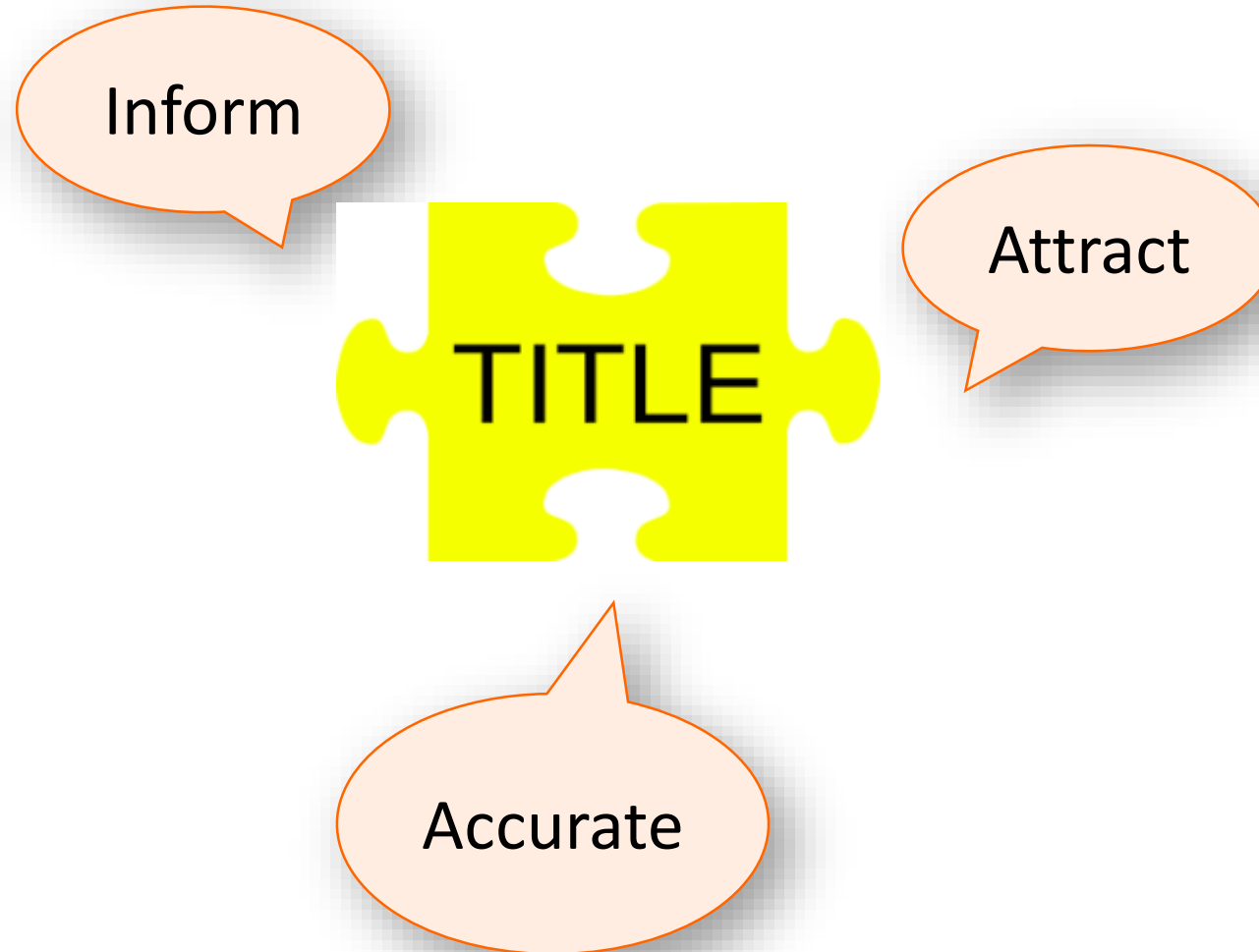
**ARGUE:** The paper argues that ..... and concludes by suggesting that .....

# Pitfalls in writing the abstract

- Drown in detail.
- Trying to say it all.
- Writing without a reader in mind.
- Struggling to find the angle (the 'so what').
- Worried of being out there.

# Crunch the Title

Step #2



# Types of Title

L2 Experience Mediates the Relation between Mainstream Acculturation Orientation and Self-Assessed L2 Competence among Migrants

[full sentence]

Cross-Cultural Pragmatic Failure

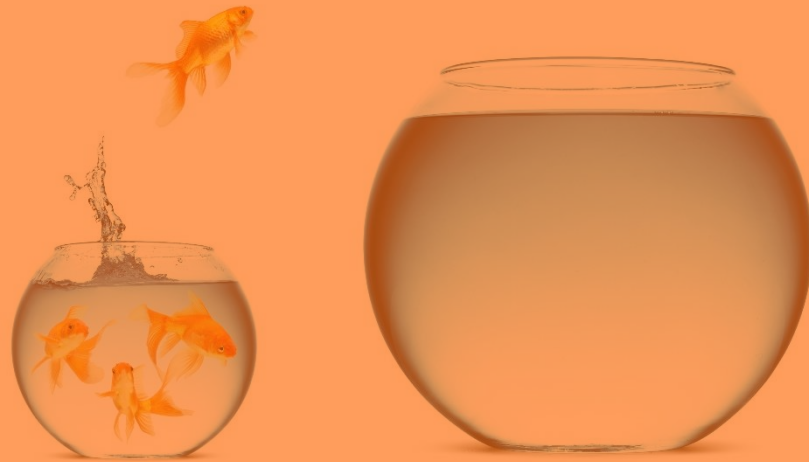
[nominal group]

When *Safe* Means 'Dangerous': A Corpus Investigation of Risk Communication in the Media

[compound]

Do Productive Skills Improve in Content and Language Integrated Learning Contexts? The Case of Writing

[Question]



# Expanding the Tiny Text

# Allocate number of words for each section

Step #3

Locate

500

Focus

100

Anchor

1500

Report

2000

Argue

2500

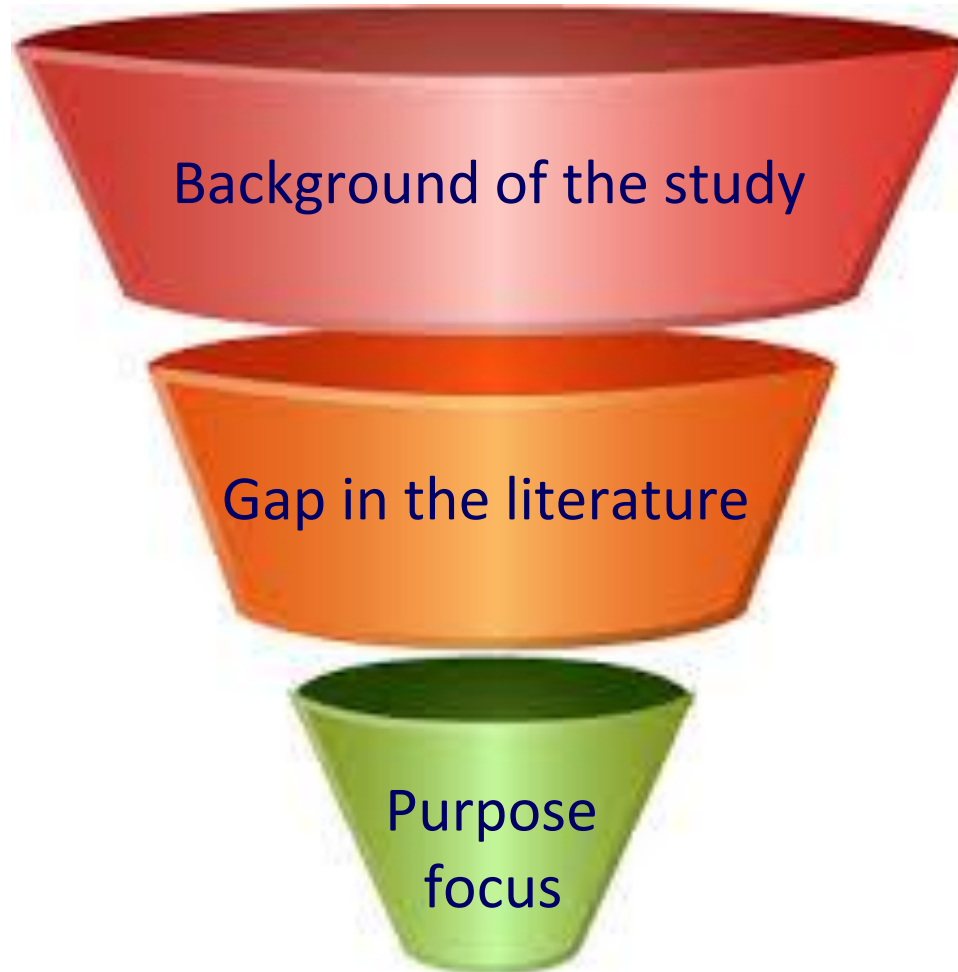
**EXAMPLE**

1. Journal word-count
2. Weighting of sections
3. Assigning time to sections
4. Using abstract to rework ideas

# Expand LOCATE + FOCUS

Step #4

Introduction &  
Literature review



What is the problem?  
What has been done?  
What do you think?  
What is lacking?  
How does your research fit in?

- Clear
- Concise
- Compelling



# Sentence skeletons

Tip

In this article, I discuss the main arguments that deal with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_. In distinguishing between \_\_\_\_\_, it is my purpose to highlight \_\_\_\_\_ by pointing to \_\_\_\_\_. Besides providing a map of the \_\_\_\_\_, I assess the extent to which these \_\_\_\_\_ lay the groundwork for \_\_\_\_\_. The article is structured as follows. After giving an over view of the scope of the \_\_\_\_\_, I review the particular \_\_\_\_\_. Next, I provide a summary of \_\_\_\_\_. Finally in the last two sections, I consider several implications derived from \_\_\_\_\_ and argue that \_\_\_\_\_.

## How did you solve the problem?

- Describe the methodology accurately and precisely.
- State why this particular methodology is chosen.
- State how to apply the methodology.

Report major findings that are pertinent to the argument to be made.

Interpret. Explain. Discuss.

Important FINDINGS....

What is your point of view and why?

# Expand ARGUE

Step #7

Is this the  
type of  
conclusion  
you want?

in Conclusion...  
I will now REPEAT  
everything  
I just said in my  
essay!

**The Conclusion is NOT a SUMMARY!**

**It is an extension of the argument**

**Elaborate the contribution:**

- A challenge to existing thinking
- new lens on the problem
- implication for practice
- future research

“

*These are my findings. This is my argument. It is a significant contribution to the field. It matters. Here's why and how... Here is what you know that you didn't before.*

(Thomson & Kamler 2013)

# After writing (the first draft)





# REFINE the argument

Step #8



Map the ground. Take a helicopter view of the paper.



# REFINE the argument

Step #8

What are the major chunks about?

Are they in the right order?

Do they flow logically?

What can be removed?

What needs to be added?



# REVISE and EDIT

Step #9

- Be consistent
- Avoid repetition
- Do not over use direct quotations
- Do not exaggerate
- Avoid emotive words
- Pay attention to the verbs / tense
- Check spelling, grammar, punctuation (language)
- Follow author's guidelines (format, reference, etc)
- Do NOT plagiarise!
- Get someone else to read the paper.

# ABSTRACT



the paper in a nutshell

TINY TEXT





Set a deadline

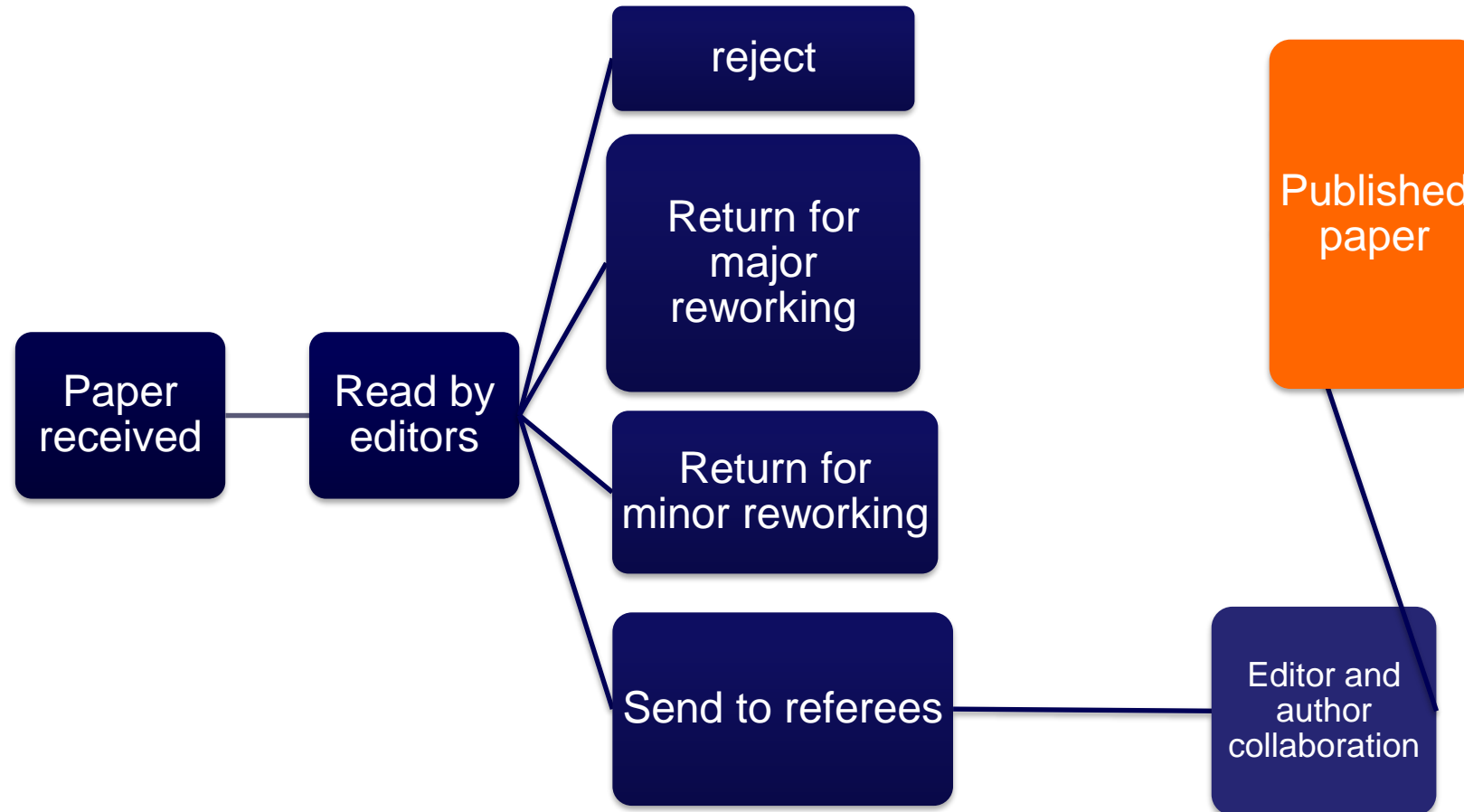


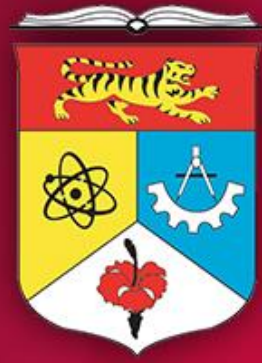
# Be consistent...

To succeed in writing

# SUBMIT. Phew, it's in...

Step #10





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*The National University  
of Malaysia*

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