

RESEARCH SKILLS TRAINING SERIES

Research Publication & Manuscript Writing

A Comprehensive 1-Hour Training for Scholars & Researchers

Duration: 60 Minutes | Format: Interactive Lecture | Level: Intermediate–Advanced



SESSION AGENDA



00–05 min

Welcome & Learning Objectives

05–15 min

Understanding Research Publication

15–30 min

Anatomy of a Research Paper (IMRaD)

30–45 min

Manuscript Writing Best Practices

45–55 min

Submission, Peer Review & Revision

55–60 min

Q&A, Wrap-Up & Takeaways



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, you will be able to:



Identify types of research publications and select appropriate journals



Structure a manuscript using the IMRaD format effectively



Apply best practices for academic writing, clarity, and style



Navigate the submission and peer review process confidently



Respond to reviewer comments and revise manuscripts strategically

Why Publish? The Importance of Research Publication

"Publish or Perish — but Publish with Purpose"



Career Advancement

Tenure, promotions, and funding depend on publication records



Knowledge Sharing

Disseminates discoveries to the global scientific community



Collaboration

Opens doors to partnerships, citations, and visibility



Academic Credibility

Peer review validates rigor and builds scholarly reputation

Types of Research Publications

Original Research Article

Full empirical study with Methods, Results, Discussion. Highest impact, most rigorous.

Review Article / Systematic Review

Synthesizes existing literature on a topic. Highly cited; great for establishing context.

Short Communication / Letter

Brief report of significant new finding. Faster to publish, narrower scope.

Case Study / Case Report

Detailed analysis of a specific instance or phenomenon.

Conference Paper

Presented at conferences. Often a stepping stone to a full journal article.

Book Chapter / Thesis

Extended scholarly contribution. Important for academic record.

Choosing the Right Journal

Scope & Aim

Match your topic to journal's stated focus area

Impact Factor

Use IF as a guide, not absolute rule — field-specific

Indexing

Check SCOPUS, Web of Science, PubMed, ESCI indexing

Open Access

Consider APC costs and funder mandates

Turnaround Time

Review + publication speed varies widely (1–18 months)

Beware of Predatory Journals!

- Promises rapid publication without review
- Charges high fees upfront
- No ISSN or fake ISSN
- Spam email solicitations
- Not indexed in reputable databases
- Vague editorial board
- **Use Beall's List & COPE to verify**

The IMRaD Structure: Anatomy of a Research Paper

I Introduction

- Background & Context
- Research Gap
- Study Rationale
- Research Question / Hypothesis
- Objectives

M Methods

- Study Design & Participants
- Data Collection Procedures
- Instruments & Tools
- Statistical / Analytical Approach
- Ethical Approval

R Results

- Descriptive Statistics
- Key Findings (text + tables)
- Figures & Charts
- No interpretation here
- Logical sequence

D Discussion

- Interpret Results
- Compare with Literature
- Limitations
- Implications
- Future Directions

&

Title, Abstract & Keywords: Your Paper's First Impression

TITLE

- Be concise yet informative — ideally 12–15 words
- Include key variables, population, and design
- Avoid jargon, abbreviations, and vague terms
- Draft last — after writing the full paper

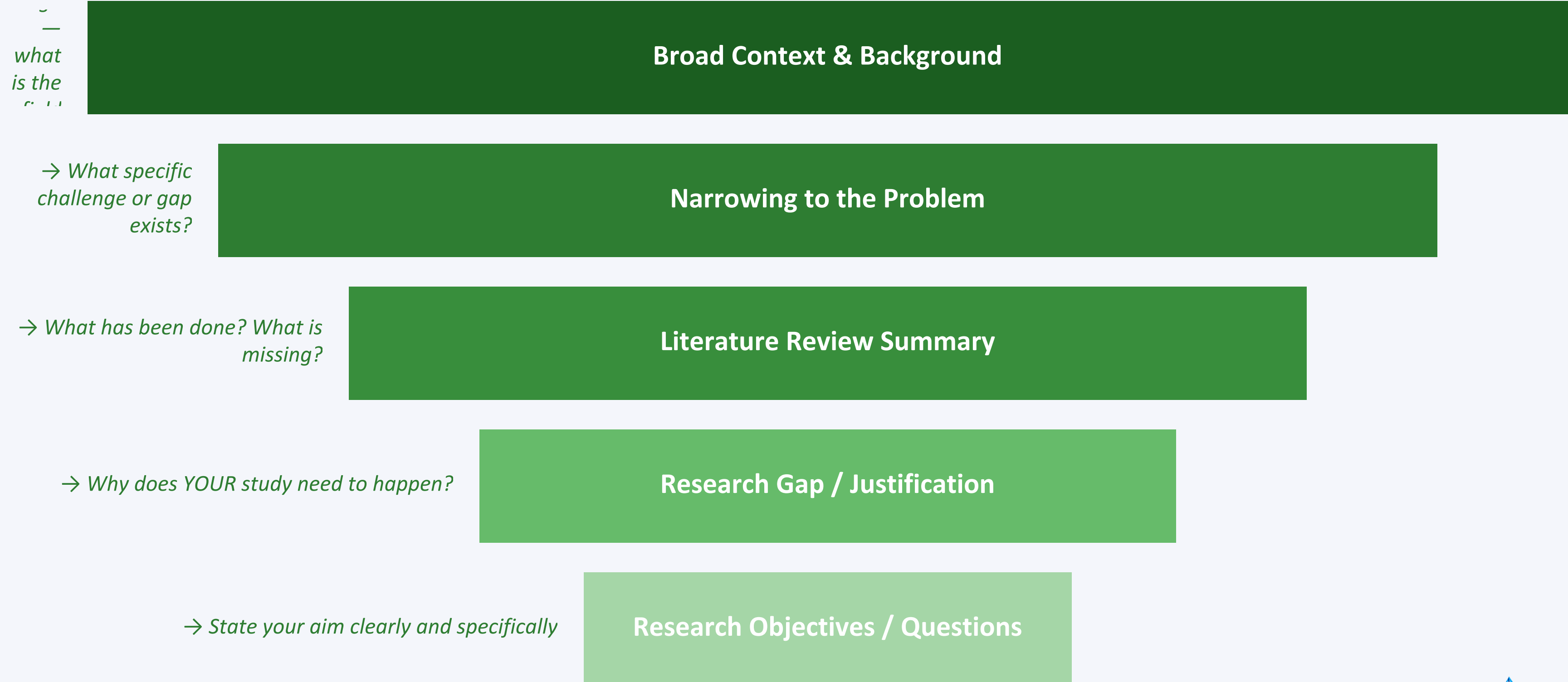
ABSTRACT

- Structured: Background, Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion
- 150–250 words (check journal guidelines)
- Stand-alone — must make sense independently
- Most-read section after the title

KEYWORDS

- Choose 4–8 terms not already in the title
- Use MeSH terms (medical/health) or discipline thesaurus
- Maximize discoverability — think search behavior
- Avoid overly broad or narrow terms

Writing the Introduction: The Funnel Approach



Writing the Methods: Reproducibility is the Gold Standard

Study Design

State research design clearly (RCT, cohort, case-control, qualitative, etc.)

Participants / Sample

Inclusion/exclusion criteria, sampling method, sample size justification

Data Collection

Instruments, tools, protocols — cite validated tools where applicable

Procedures

Step-by-step description — enough for replication

Statistical Analysis

Software (SPSS, R, STATA), tests used, significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$)

Ethical Approval

IRB/Ethics committee approval number, consent procedures



Pro Tip: Write Methods FIRST — it anchors the rest of your paper!

Results vs Discussion: Know the Difference

RESULTS

✓ DO

- Present data objectively — no opinions
- Use tables for detailed data, figures for trends
- Report all outcomes (positive AND null)
- Use precise statistical language (p-values, CI, effect size)
- Follow logical sequence matching Methods

✗ DON'T

- Interpret or explain findings
- Repeat all data in text if shown in table
- Selectively report only significant results

DISCUSSION

✓ DO

- Begin with main finding — answer the research question
- Compare with similar published studies
- Explain unexpected or null results
- Acknowledge study limitations honestly
- Discuss clinical/practical implications

✗ DON'T

- Introduce new data not in Results
- Overstate conclusions beyond your findings
- Ignore conflicting evidence

Academic Writing Best Practices

01 Clarity Over Complexity

Prefer simple sentences. Avoid unnecessary jargon. One idea per sentence.

02 Active vs Passive Voice

'We measured...' vs 'Measurements were taken...' — balance both strategically.

Avoid Plagiarism

Paraphrase properly. Use plagiarism checkers (iThenticate, Turnitin). Cite all sources.

04 Consistent Tense Use

Methods/Results → past tense.
Introduction/Discussion → mix of present and past.

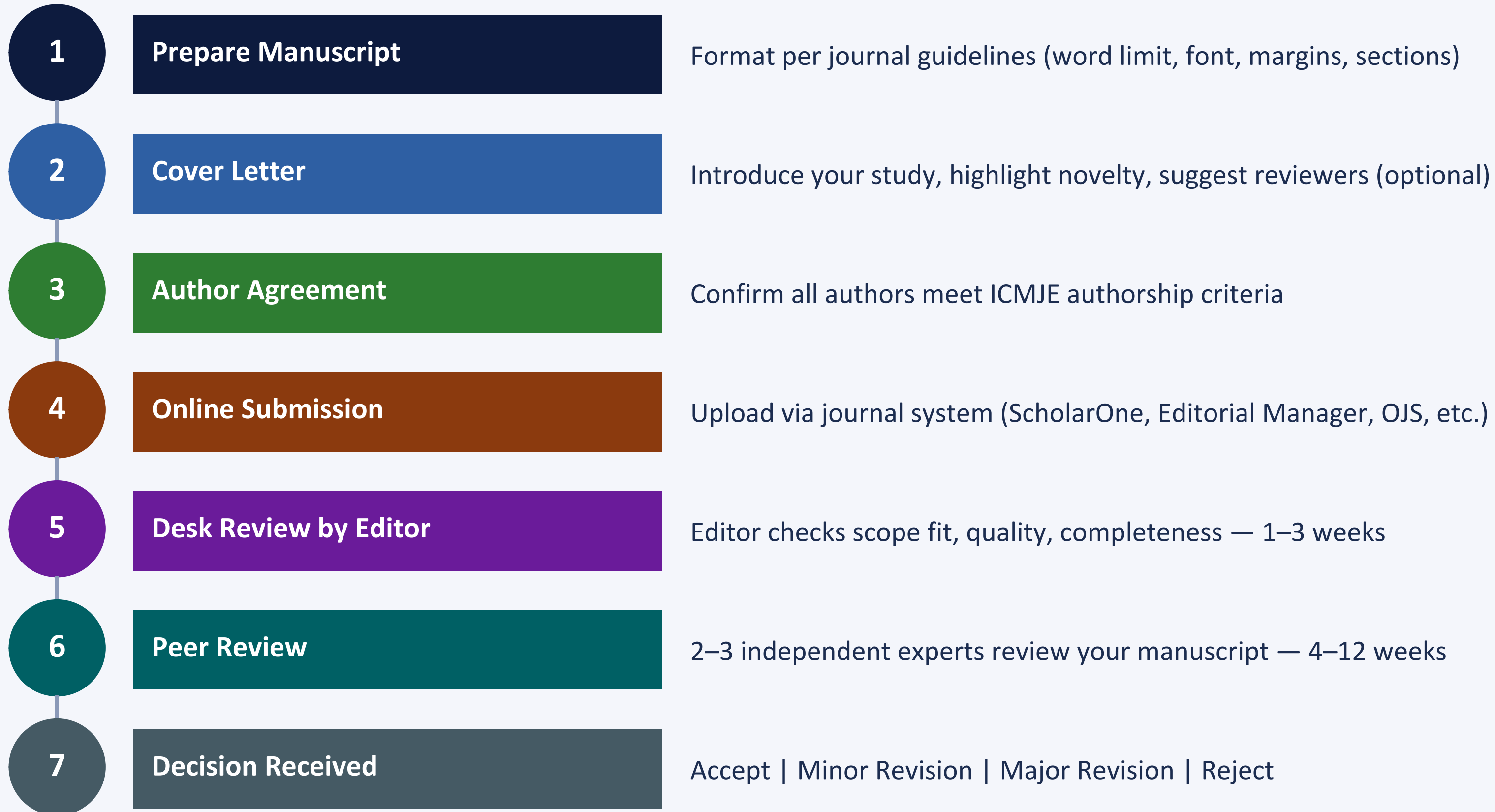
05 Citation Management

Use Mendeley, Zotero, or EndNote. Follow journal's citation style (APA, Vancouver, AMA).

06 Tables & Figures

Must be self-explanatory. Number sequentially. Add meaningful captions & footnotes.

The Submission Process: Step by Step



Navigating Peer Review & Revising Your Manuscript

Accept

Rare without any revision —
celebrate!

Minor Revision

Small corrections. Respond within 2–4
weeks.

Major Revision

Significant changes. Treat as a new
submission.

Reject

Not the end! Learn from feedback,
revise, resubmit elsewhere.

How to Respond to Reviewer Comments

- ✓ Address EVERY comment — even if you disagree; provide a reasoned rebuttal
- ✍ Create a Response Document: quote each comment, then state your response
- 👁 Track all changes in the manuscript so editors can easily see revisions
- 🕒 Respond before the deadline; request extension if absolutely necessary
- 🔄 If rejected, revise thoroughly before submitting to another journal

Common Mistakes to Avoid in Manuscript Writing



X Mismatched Journal

Submitting to a journal outside your paper's scope

X Poor Abstract

Abstract that doesn't reflect the paper's actual findings

X Missing Ethics

No ethics approval or consent statement where required

X Weak Methods

Insufficient detail for reproducibility

X Overstated Claims

Conclusions that go beyond what the data support

X Reference Errors

Uncited claims or incorrect citation formatting

X Plagiarism

Including self-plagiarism from your own prior work

X Ignored Guidelines

Not following journal's author instructions — instant rejection

Essential Tools & Resources for Researchers

Reference Managers

- Mendeley
- Zotero
- EndNote
- RefWorks

Plagiarism Checkers

- iThenticate
- Turnitin
- Grammarly
- PlagScan

Journal Search

- JCR (Impact Factor)
- DOAJ (Open Access)
- Scimago
- Ulrich's Periodicals

Writing Tools

- Grammarly
- Hemingway App
- DeepL
- ChatGPT (with caution)

Data & Stats

- SPSS
- R / RStudio
- STATA
- GraphPad Prism

Literature Search

- PubMed / MEDLINE
- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Google Scholar

Key Takeaways



1. Choose the Right Journal

Match scope, check indexing, avoid predatory journals

2. Structure Matters

IMRaD is your foundation — master each section's purpose

3. Write Clearly

Plain language + strong logic beats fancy vocabulary every time

4. Ethics & Integrity

Always cite properly, declare conflicts, get ethics approval

5. Peer Review is Normal

Revision requests are opportunities — not rejections of your work

6. Use Available Tools

Leverage reference managers, checkers, and statistical software

7. Persist & Publish

Publication takes time — resilience is your most important skill





Questions & Discussion

Thank you for your attention and engagement!

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." — Mark Twain

Start writing your first (or next) manuscript TODAY.