

Communicating to increase the impact of research

Part 2: Research writing & communication to academic audiences

26<sup>th</sup> November

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### Our vision

Research and knowledge at the heart of development

## Our mission

To support individuals and institutions to produce, share and use research and knowledge to transform lives

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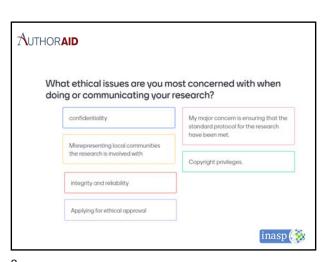




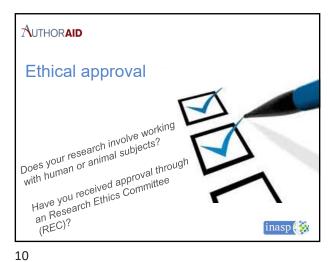


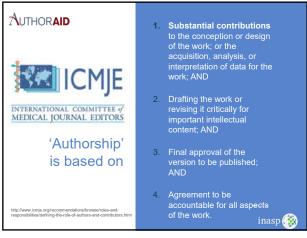














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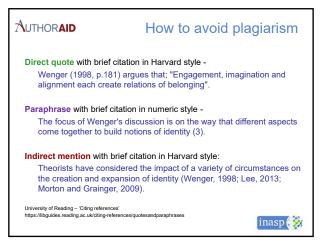








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'Self plagiarism'

#### What about 'self-plagiarism'? AKA text recycling

"...self-plagiarism refers to authors who reuse their own previously disseminated content and pass it off as a "new" product without letting the reader know that this material has appeared previously.

According to Hexam, "... the essence of self- plagiarism is [that] the author attempts to deceive the reader."

Office of Research Integrity, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (link)

#### What about reusing methods from a previous work?

- Guidelines can depend on the journal/disciplines
- Always try to acknowledge cite previous methods, even if they are your own; or use block quotes if necessary. Don't pretend the methods are new.



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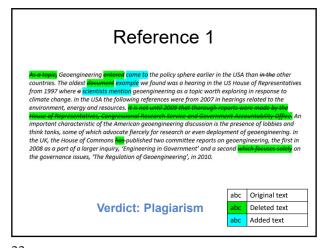


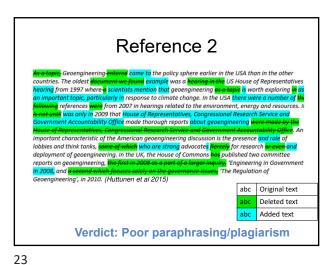
# Exercise: Paraphrase or Plagiarism?

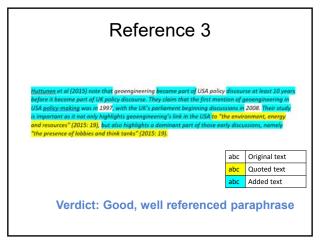
## Original text (Hutteten et al. 2015)

As a topic, geoengineering entered the policy sphere earlier in the USA than in the other countries. The oldest document we found was a hearing in the US House of Representatives from 1997 where a scientist mentions geoengineering as a topic worth exploring in response to climate change. In the USA the following references were from 2007 in hearings related to the environment, renergy and resources were from 2007 in nearings related to the environment, energy and resources. It is not until 2009 that thorough reports were made by the House of Representatives, Congressional Research Service and Government Accountability Office. An important characteristic of the American geoengineering discussion is the presence of lobbies and think tanks, some of which advocate fiercely for research or even deployment of geoengineering. In the UK, the House of Commons has published two committee reports on geoengineering, the first in 2008 as a part of a larger inquiry, 'Engineering in Government' and a second which focuses solely on the governance issues, 'The Regulation of Geoengineering', in 2010.



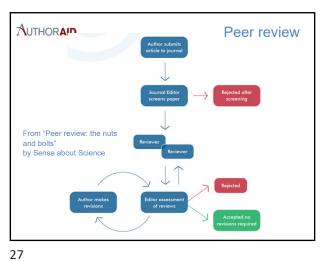


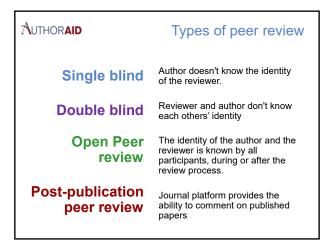


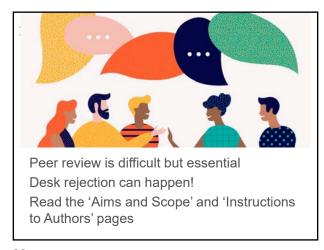


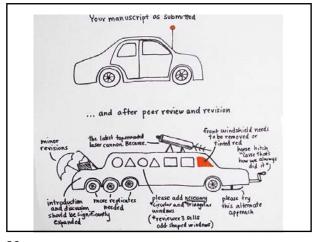


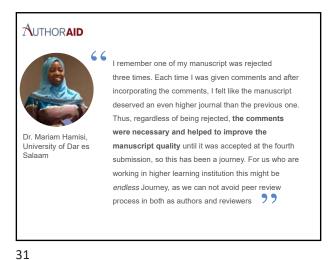














Does the paper fit the standards and scope of the journal it is being considered for?

Is the research question clear?

Was the approach appropriate?

Is the study design, methods and analysis appropriate to the question being studied?

Does the study challenge existing paradigms or add to existing knowledge?

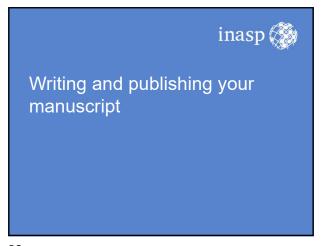


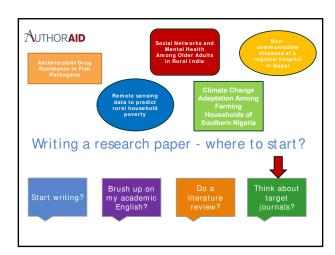






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## Writing a research paper – where to start?

Where can I publish my paper?
How can I find a high-impact journal?
What is Open Access?
Do I have to pay a fee to publish?
How can I avoid 'predatory' journals
How do I get through peer review?

Authorald Publishing an article in a journal
 Research writing for publication is different from writing a thesis or dissertation
 Research articles are "short", concise, carefully formatted packages of content
 Think about your audience (who do you need to impress)

 Journal editors (the gatekeepers)
 Peer reviewers (the gatekeepers)
 Other scientists and academics
 The public, practitioners, policymakers?

# AUTHORAID Publishing an article in a journal

Think about your goal:

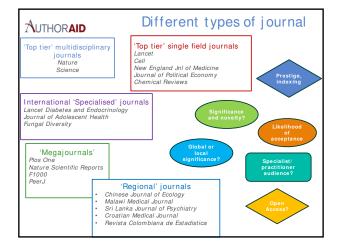
- Get cited by other researchers
- Add a novel solution or perspective to the literature
- Influence practice or policy
- Identifying (and reading!) target journals first is important
- · Journals have different:
  - Aims and scope
  - Style guides and formats
  - Audiences
  - Ethical guidelines
  - Data sharing requirements

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## Some Factors to Consider

- Audience
- Subject scope
- Geographical scope
- · Access / Open Access
- Prestige
- · Publication time
- · Likelihood of acceptance
- Indexing
- · 'Impact Factor'

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## More things to consider

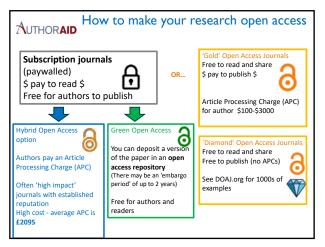
- Stay away from 'predatory' journals
- Look for verifiable claims
- Understand the Open Access model
- · Don't be swayed by the Impact Factor
- Care about your audience

From Ravi Murugesan — 'How to choose a journal that's right for your research'

- Understand indexing databases and metrics
- · Read the Aims and Scope
- · Read the Instructions to Authors
- Write a cover letter

From Duncan Nicholas – 'How to choose a journal and write a cover letter'

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# Authorald Avoiding 'predatory' journals

"Predatory journals & publishers ... prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship & are characterized by <u>false or misleading info</u>, deviation from best editorial/publication practices, lack of transparency, &/or <u>use of aggressive & indiscriminate solicitation</u> practices"

Matt Hodgkinson, Head of Research Integrity, Hindawi

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## Tip number 1!

You don't **need** to pay to publish in a journal. It is often free to submit and publish a paper.

Therefore, if you are quoted over \$100 (approx.) to publish your paper, you should be getting something significant in return. Expect the journal to be indexed in DOAJ, and one of: WoS, Scopus or Pubmed (Medline)





## More quick tips - 6 things to remember

- <u>Don't trust email invites</u> and 'Call for Papers' (unless you recognise the sender)
- Be more critical of 'international' or 'global' journals, and those with a wide scope
- Double-check claims of prestigious indexing and impact factors
- Read the 'Aims and scope' or 'About' page check the journal understands your field
- Check who is publishing the journal are they a credible scholarly organisation?
- Check your reference lists familiarise yourself with good journals in your field

From "A beginner's guide to avoiding 'predatory' journals (using your critical thinking skills)"

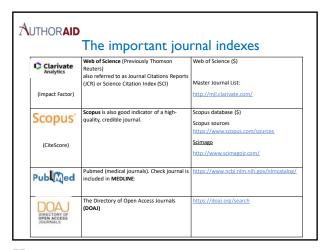
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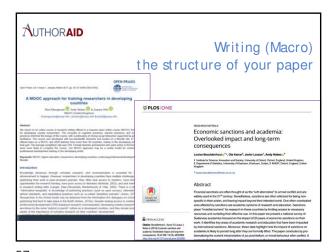
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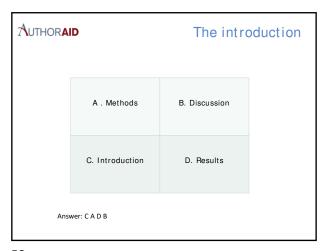
### Some other useful tips

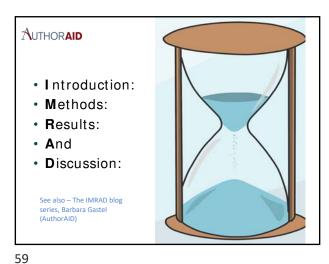
- Think.Check.Submit (www.thinkchecksubmit.org)
- Check out the editorial board
- Check the physical address
- Poor English spelling and grammar
- Watch out for 'rapid publication'
- Author should retain copyright (e.g. via a CC-BY licence).

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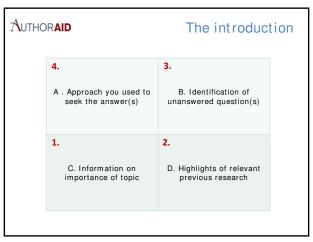


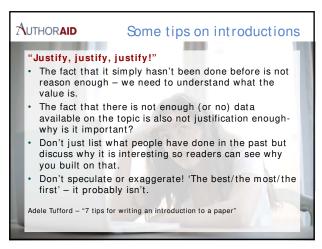


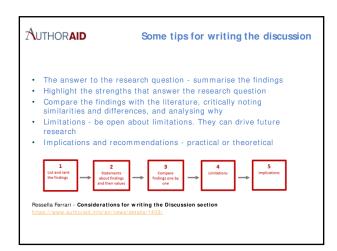




AUTHORAID Some simple rules for structuring papers
 Rule 1: Focus your paper on a central contribution, which you communicate in the title
 Rule 2: Write for real human beings who do not know your work
 Rule 3: Stick to the context-content-conclusion (C-C-C) scheme
 Rule 4: Optimise your logical flow by avoiding zigzagging – stick to the research question!
 Rule 5: Tell a complete story in the abstract
 From "Ten simple rules for structuring papers" – Plos Computational Biology









AUTHORAID What about the writing itself?

- Two common errors:
  - Writing too much (and having to cut down words to fit under a word limit)
  - Writing too formally/using too much sophisticated language and jargon



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#### **PREFER ACTIVE SENTENCES**

Turning a passive sentence into an active sentence means changing the structure. Active sentences are ordered like this: WHO (subject) DID (verb) WHAT (object). For example: 'Anne watched television'. Passive sentences are structured like this: WHAT WAS DONE BY WHO. For example: 'The television was watched by Anne'.



#### **USE 'YOU' AND 'WE'**

Using 'you' and 'we' helps you focus on WHO DID WHAT. For example: we started the project; we designed the service; you should use the template to record results.

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Active vs passive voice in academic writing

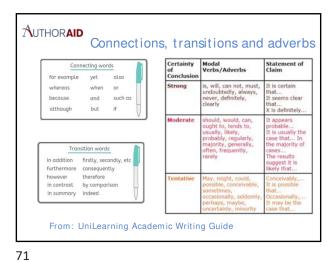
- · Can depend on discipline or journal
- · Check the journal guidelines!

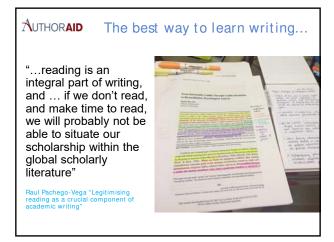
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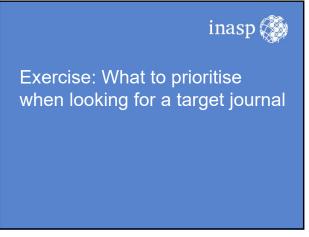
Active voice and 'we'

- The workshop was facilitated by Andy.
- Andy facilitated the workshop.
- It was decided by the governor that the assistance to the project was to be suspended.
- The governor suspended the project.
- It is believed by the authors that a time limit must be placed on the exercise by the coordinators.
- We believe that coordinators must place a time limit on the exercise.

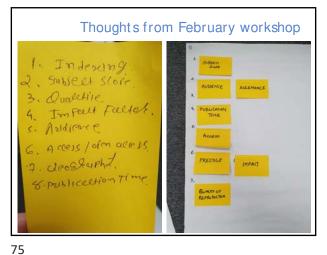














AuthorAID online courses

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Scientific Writing – 9th March to 20th April 2021 (6 weeks)

Research Writing in the Social Sciences – 8th June to 20th July 2021 (6 weeks)

Research Writing and Proposal Writing – 7th September to 2nd November (8 weeks)

https://moodle.inasp.info/



