## VIMS Journal of Physical Therapy

### [EDITORIAL]

## Guidelines for contributing to an editorial article

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### **ABSTRACT:**

**Aim-** To develop a systematic and methodological approach to improve scholarly academic writing abilities and skills required for contributing to editorial sections intended for publication.

**Methodology-** A comprehensive scientific search was conducted across various databases including MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, PubMed, and SCOPUS to find relevant literature articles suitable for scholarly editorial writing intended for publication.

**Results-** The initial search obtained 27 articles. After applying filters such as restricting the publication year to 2000-2022, considering only articles in English, and removing duplicates, a final selection of 5 articles was included. The findings of all these five articles were synthesized for framing the guidelines for editorial writing.

#### Introduction-

Editorial writing involves expressing an opinion by a selected individual or an editor who are typically an expert in the respective subject area and domain. The main purpose of this writing is to influence the readers' opinions. The selection of a significant topic for an editorial is usually made by the editor, considering the potential interest of the majority of readers. The editor is expected to provide constructive criticism.

Editorials are typically concise, spanning around 1 to 2 pages or approximately 500 to 1000 words. The language used should be scientific in nature while remaining accessible to the readers. These pieces are a common feature in many medical journals, with some publications including one or more editorials in each issue, while others feature them occasionally. The process of writing an editorial encourages critical thinking, and it typically consists of an introduction, body, and conclusion sections.

#### Methodology-

To find relevant literature articles focused on editorial writing for publication, a systematic search was conducted across databases such as MEDLINE, CINAHL, PubMed, and SCOPUS. The search strategy employed the use of logical operators such as 'AND' and 'OR' to refine the results. The articles included in this study met these specific criteria, articles published in peer-reviewed journals, providing guidelines or insights on editorial writing. Additionally, the inclusion criteria focused on articles published between 2000 and 2022 and written in the English language. These criteria helped ensure that valuable and relevant articles were included in this research.

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#### **Discussion & Conclusion-**

A comprehensive analysis was conducted on five articles that fulfilled the inclusion criteria, with the aim of gaining a thorough understanding of the guidelines for writing or contributing to editorial writing. This article provides necessary guidelines designed for journal or newspaper editors. The process of editorial review serves multiple purposes within a journal, as it holds significant influence over the readers. By publishing a scholarly editorial, editors have the opportunity to contribute to the professional literature and assume the role of a trusted critic. Writing an editorial also serves as a means of self-education and improvisation.

Academic experts have suggested that writing an

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editorial can be an outstanding and esteemed opportunity for researchers. However, experienced editors may find motivation in their altruistic commitment to scholarship and the honour of being invited to write an editorial.

Recommendations for publishing an editorial writing-

#### Steps to follow-

- 1. Understand the concept of an editorial
- 2. Understand the objectives or aims of an editorial
- 3. Select a relevant and impactful topic for an editorial
- 4. Decide the content and structure of an editorial
- 5. Present a critique of papers initially by presenting an opposing viewpoint and subsequently expressing the editorial's perspective
- 6. Strengthen and build the arguments with the statistical data
- 7. Concluding the editorial by summarizing the main points and highlighting the need for further examination or action
- 8. Avoiding the use of personal pronouns such as "I" in the editorial
- Concluding the editorial with a powerful statement that reinforces the initial remark or thesis statement.

# Following details should be mentioned in an editorial writing-

• Ensure that all the essential questions (who, what, when, where, why) are addressed in the

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- Incorporate both factual information and opposing viewpoints to provide a balanced perspective.
- Back up your opinions with credible evidence and supporting facts.
- Conclude the editorial effectively, leaving a strong impact or memorable statement.

# Types of Editorial writings for journal or newspaper-

Explain or interpret: Editors use this type of editorial to explain a new policy, a new norm, or a new finding.

**Criticize:** This type of editorial is used to disapprove of any finding or observation.

**Persuade:** These encourage the reader to adopt new thoughts or ideas.

Praise: These editorials admire the authors for doing something well.

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