You’ve done the literature search, you’ve read all the relevant papers, you’ve planned and conducted your research, you have your results and your conclusions…now you need to write the paper.

Writing a good paper is hard, but remember you are not alone. Even if you are the sole author, your supervisor or colleagues can be an invaluable source of support and guidance.

When you have a first draft, ask for constructive feedback from your colleagues and mentors so that you can refine and improve it.

Before you begin writing, check the journal submission guidelines for templates, formatting, length and style. This means you will have the correct structure, and referencing style, in place right from the start. Submission guidelines are generally found in the ‘Instructions for authors’ section of a journal webpage and will vary depending on your discipline, research topic and article type.

You can find a lot of guidance online to help you write your article title, abstract and keywords with search engine optimisation in mind.

* Include relevant keywords in your title. You article title should reflect the main theme of your article, even if this means you have to resist using a clever pun or quote.
* It sounds obvious, but make sure you include keywords and your core findings in your abstract.

We have added links to the slide with information from some well known publishers ([Springer](https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writing-a-journal-manuscript/title-abstract-and-keywords/10285522), [Taylor & Francis](https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-your-research/writing-your-paper/writing-a-journal-article/), [Elsevier](https://www.elsevier.com/connect/11-steps-to-structuring-a-science-paper-editors-will-take-seriously) and [Nature](https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/for-authors/write)), as well as a piece on “[Demystifying the Journal Article](https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2017/05/09/how-write-effective-journal-article-and-get-it-published-essay)”. You can also access these links from the transcript.

You may have wondered if you could use ChatGPT or other Generative Artificial Intelligence to assist in writing your article. The guidance in the [University of Southampton Academic Integrity Toolkit](https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/AcademicIntegrityToolKit/SitePages/Artificial-Intelligence.aspx) states:

“Doctoral students are advised that they should not, in general, submit any content that has been produced by generative artificial intelligence platforms for their progression reviews, thesis or publications. This includes production of the document text, literature reviews, works of art or artificially manufactured datasets. Additionally, they should not use artificial intelligence tools for the automated translation or editing of their work.

There will be some clear exceptions to this, such as for doctoral projects that are specifically focussed on the development of artificial intelligence, or the stated application of a generative artificial intelligence tool to solve a problem. Where an artificial intelligence platform has been used as part of a valid research methodology, its use must be clearly declared and documented.”

When you have finished writing, and all co-authors have approved the content, always proofread your paper. You might find that having a friend read it out loud to you is useful to pick up minor errors, or use the “[Read Aloud](https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/office/listen-to-your-word-documents-5a2de7f3-1ef4-4795-b24e-64fc2731b001)” option in Word (or Speak option in Google Docs). Pay particular attention to technical language and the labelling of graphs, tables and figures.