

# Doing the write thing... writing for journal publication

Julie Nyhus, MSN, FNP-BC, APRN

Editorial Director

American Nurse, the official journal of the American Nurses Association



## Step 1: Choose your topic

- Choose a topic that you are passionate about!
- You don't have to be a "thought leader" to write about a topic you have experience with and can share important insights about!
- Your experiences and the knowledge you've gained in practice bring value to your manuscript.
- Nurses learn from each other - your story helps readers understand and visualize how they might practice.



## Step 2: Research your journal choices

- What type of journal do you want to submit your article to?
- Does the journal's content and style mesh with what you want to write about?
- Review the journals' Author Guidelines, paying specific attention to details.
- Query the Editor!



## Step 3: Review the literature

- This step will also help you confirm what journal you want to publish in as well as the approach you want to use in developing your manuscript.
- Use your article review as an opportunity to develop key content areas.



## Step 4: Get to know your journal of choice

- Review three recent issues paying attention to details.
- Learn the journal's approach to writing - many journals have their own "voice".
- Query the Editor to determine their interest in the topic - or they may discuss a new focus.



## Step 5: Getting Started

- Organize your manuscript with an outline.
- Your first draft will be completed quickly if you did your homework!
- **START WRITING IN THE MIDDLE** - work to get the key content areas written first.



## Step 6: General tips

- Keep it simple and take breaks.
- Plan specific sections to write during each of your writing sessions.
- Don't worry about leads, title, introduction - they develop after the article is done.



## Step 7: Check, and recheck

- Continue to edit and cut extra nonessential words. Do this at least three times.
- Shorter is better.
- Submit your work per Author Guides.



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or visit [www.MyAmericanNurse.com](http://www.MyAmericanNurse.com)  
for Author Guidelines