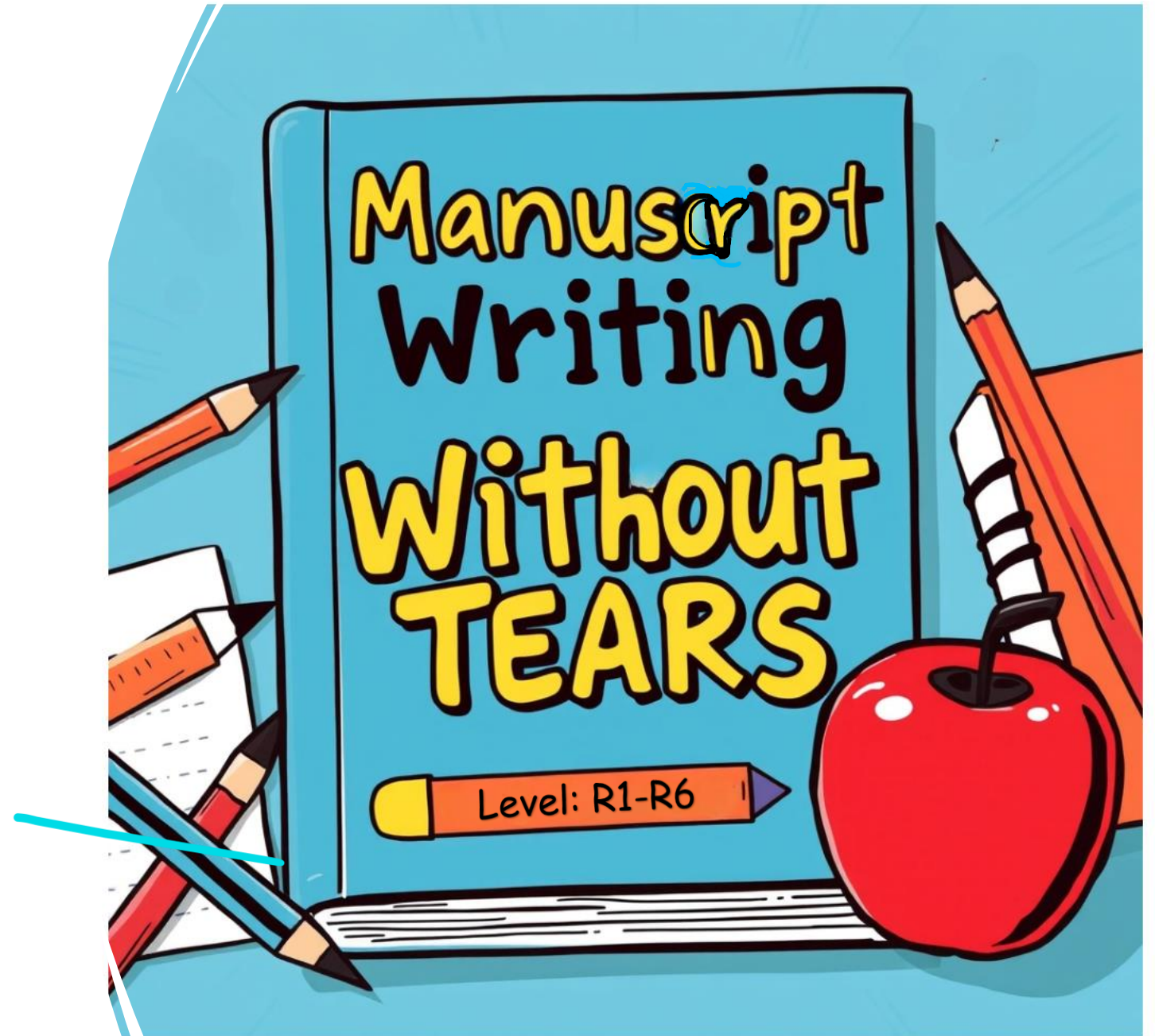


Manuscript Writing Without Tears: A Step- by-Step Guide to Publishing Your Work

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Decision Editor,
Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine
Editorial Board, Hospital Pediatrics



Objectives

- Learn a practical and efficient approach to writing and submitting a manuscript that will:
 - Appeal to reviewers, editors and readers
 - Increase your chances of publishing your work
 - Not cause you excessive pain



No one wants to read a write-up

- You know your study is awesome
- Unless you draw in the reader...no one will find out
- A dry report detailing everything you did will bore your readers
- What is the story you want to tell?
 - Why does your topic matter?
 - What makes your work interesting?
 - How do your findings relate to something that matters to readers?



What's Your Story?



- According to Dr. Lorelei Lingard, author of “Story Not Study,” when we tell a story:
- We show readers how our project relates to something they care about.
- We convince them that our story builds on, complicates, or challenges other stories that have been told.
- We persuade them that our approach was logical and trustworthy.
- We share our limitations honestly without minimizing our impact.

Start Submission

COLLECTION

The Writer's Craft Collection: Resources to enhance your academic writing

Collection launched: Feb 1, 2023

This special collection brings together all of the Writer's Craft publications, which aim to support scholars to improve their academic writing. Browse to find resources to enhance your own writing or to share with trainees and colleagues who are honing the craft.

https://pmejournal.org/collections/writers_craft

Excellent
Resource!

PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT The story behind the synthesis: writing an effective introduction to your scoping review <i>Lingard & Colquhoun</i>	Aug 12, 2022 11(5) : 1-6
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Writing for the reader: Using reader expectation principles to maximize clarity <i>Lingard</i>	Mar 8, 2022 11(4) : 228-231
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT When English clashes with other languages: Insights and cautions from the <i>Writer's Craft</i> series <i>Lingard et al.</i>	Nov 3, 2021 10(6) : 347-351
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Don't be reviewer 2! Reflections on writing effective peer review comments <i>Watling et al.</i>	Jun 11, 2021 10(5) : 299-303
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Collaborative writing: Strategies and activities for writing productively together <i>Lingard</i>	May 7, 2021 10(3) : 163-166
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Writing an effective literature review: Part II: Citation technique <i>Lingard</i>	Mar 2, 2018 7(2) : 133-135
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Writing an effective literature review: Part I: Mapping the gap <i>Lingard</i>	Dec 19, 2017 7(1) : 47-49
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Does your discussion realize its potential? <i>Lingard</i>	Sep 4, 2017 6(5) : 344-346
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Tuning your writing <i>Watling</i>	Apr 10, 2017 6(3) : 189-191
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT Mastering the sentence <i>Lingard</i>	Dec 8, 2016 6(1) : 51-53
PME	THE WRITER'S CRAFT The three 'S's of editing: story, structure, and style <i>Watling</i>	Jul 26, 2016 5(5) : 300-302

Choosing Your Target Journals: Where Should Your Story Be Told?

- Choose your audience
 - Who will be most interested?
 - Where will your story have the most impact
- Choose a first and second choose journal
 - Is impact factor a priority to you?
 - Compare authors instructions (word limits, etc.)
 - Are you limited to journals without fees?
- Avoid aiming too high unless motivated to go through reformatting/revision processes



Tips for Choosing a Journal

- Your supervisor probably has a good idea of where your project fits best
- A helpful tool: JANE
 - Provide your title and/or abstract and get recommendations
 - Jane.biosemantics.org
- Journalguide.com
 - Website currently being updated

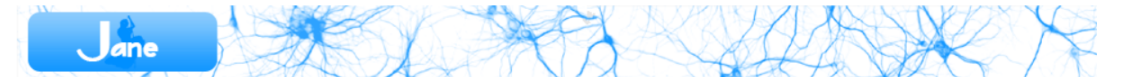


Insert your title and/or abstract here: (or, click [here](#) to search using keywords)

Codesign of a survey to measure family safety experience to reflect family priorities of parents of children admitted to a pediatric hospital.

Scramble Clear Show extra options

Find journals Find authors Find articles



These journals have articles most similar to your input:


"Codesign of a survey to measure family safety experience to reflect family priorities of parents of ..."

Confidence	Journal	Article Influence	Articles
Pediatrics Medline-indexed		2.3	Show articles
Journal of pain and symptom management Medline-indexed		1.1	Show articles
Journal of patient experience High-quality open access PMC			Show articles
Journal of autism and developmental disorders Medline-indexed		1.3	Show articles
Children (Basel, Switzerland) High-quality open access PMC			Show articles
Journal for specialists in pediatric nursing : JSPN Medline-indexed		0.4	Show articles
The Turkish journal of pediatrics		0.2	Show articles
JAMA network open High-quality open access			Show articles
CMAJ open PMC			Show articles
European journal of pediatrics Medline-indexed		0.6	Show articles

Create an outline using a reporting standard, authors instructions, and example articles

- **Reporting Standards (EQUATOR Network)**
- Repository of reporting standards for most study types
 - CONSORT for clinical trials
 - STROBE for observational studies
 - SQUIRE for QI projects
- Locate and review author instructions in your journal of choice
- Find a couple of articles of similar study design to yours, ideally published in your target journal

<https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/>

 Reporting guidelines for main study types		
Randomised trials	CONSORT	Extensions
Observational studies	STROBE	Extensions
Systematic reviews	PRISMA	Extensions
Study protocols	SPIRIT	PRISMA-P
Diagnostic/prognostic studies	STARD	TRIPOD
Case reports	CARE	Extensions
Clinical practice guidelines	AGREE	RIGHT
Qualitative research	SRQR	COREQ
Animal pre-clinical studies	ARRIVE	
Quality improvement studies	SQUIRE	Extensions
Economic evaluations	CHEERS	Extensions

“Make me an outline based on STROBE...”

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cross-sectional studies*

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract <hr/> <i>(b)</i> Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection

I. Introduction

1. Background

- Brief overview of the research topic
- Importance of the study in the context of existing literature

2. Rationale

- Justification for the study
- Identification of gaps in current knowledge

3. Objectives

- Clearly state the primary and secondary objectives of the study
- Hypotheses or research questions

II. Methods

1. Study Design

- Type of observational study (e.g., cohort, case-control, cross-sectional)
- Justification for the chosen design



2. Participants



ChatGPT

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CJEM Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine

Inspiring excellence in emergency medical care



CJEM JCMU

Springer

Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine (2022) 24:117–119
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s43678-021-00241-5>

COMMENTARY

Guide to writing and publishing a scientific manuscript: Part 1—structure

Ian G. Stiell^{1,2} · For the Canadian EM Writing Group

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Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine (2022) 24:120–122
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s43678-021-00242-4>

COMMENTARY

Guide to writing and publishing a scientific manuscript: part 2—the process

Ian G. Stiell^{1,2} on behalf of Canadian E. M. Writing Group

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Excellent
Resources!



Write a Junk Draft

- Start filling in your outline without worrying about word choice.
- Use casual voice and filler sentences if you get stuck (“Sentence here about association between language barriers and medical errors.”)
- Add dummy tables and charts
- Consider writing your junk draft before you finish your project!





The Introduction: Joining a Conversation with Problem/Gap/Hook

- Journals exist to promote scholarly conversation
 - What problem are people talking about?
 - What is a gap in the current understanding?
 - Convince readers that the gap matters.
 - Describe what you will do to address it.
- Inverted triangle introductions can get boring (e.g. “Sepsis is a really bad global problem...”)

Lorelei Lingard
Christopher Watling

Story, Not Study:
30 Brief Lessons to Inspire
Health Researchers as Writers

Lingard L. Joining a conversation: the problem/gap/hook heuristic. *Perspect Med Educ*. 2015

Methods: “Trust me. I know what I’m doing.”

L. Lingard in Story, Not Study

- Name study design and specific methods used.
- Justify and explain choices.
- Avoid jargon that is unlikely to be understood by readers. Educate when needed.
- Anticipate reviewer critiques and address pre-emptively.



Methods

- Follow the reporting standard that corresponds to your study unless your journal specifies otherwise. Don't make readers search for answers.
- Standard subheadings
 - Study Design
 - Study Setting
 - Participants
 - Interventions
 - Outcome Measures
 - Data Collection
 - Data Analysis
 - Sample Size
 - Project Ethics



Results

Organize your results to support your story.

- **Use a logical order:** Present findings in a sequence that aligns with your research questions or objectives.
- **Move from broad to specific:** Start with general results and move to detailed findings relevant to study aims.
- **Key Elements in the Results Section**
 - **Primary Findings First:** Present main findings directly related to your research question.
 - **Secondary Findings or Sub-analyses:** Include only if they add value to the main narrative and are pre-specified.

Tables and Figures: Provide clarity; don't be redundant.

- **Avoid Repetition:** Describe only key takeaways in text that are not redundant with tables/figures.



Results

Table 1: Descriptive Characteristics of the Sample

- **Purpose:** Provide an overview of participant demographics and baseline characteristics.
- **Include:** Age, gender, clinical characteristics.

Flow Diagrams (e.g., CONSORT Diagram)

- **Patient Inclusion/Exclusion:** Use to show the number of participants screened, excluded, and analyzed. Essential if the study involves patient selection steps (e.g., RCTs or cohort studies).

Additional Tips for Tables and Figures

- **Consistency:** Use the same order for variables across tables/figures.
- **Titles and Legends:** Ensure clarity; captions should allow tables and figures to stand alone.
- **Highlight Key Findings:** Bold or annotate major points in tables to guide readers.



Discussion: Bring your story to conclusion.

- **Interpret, Don't Restate:** Provide insight into what findings mean rather than repeating results.
- **Position Findings in the Broader Context**
- **Literature Comparison:** Relate findings to existing studies and identify alignment or differences.
- **Highlight Contributions:** Show how your study advances understanding or fills a knowledge gap.
- **Acknowledge Limitations:** Be honest about constraints and their impact. This should be a reflection, not a list of excuses or dismissals.
- **Offer Next Steps and Meaningful Conclusions**
- **Future Directions:** Suggest logical follow-up studies or applications.
- **Summarize Implications:** Explain significance without overstating conclusions beyond project scope and findings.



Timelines and Feedback

- Start writing while you do the project, not after
- Work with your supervisor on a timeline
- Break down writing into sections
- Ask for feedback on each part
- Address authorship order before project starts
- Share drafts early
- Set meetings
- Deadlines for feedback
- Address publication fees when choosing journals



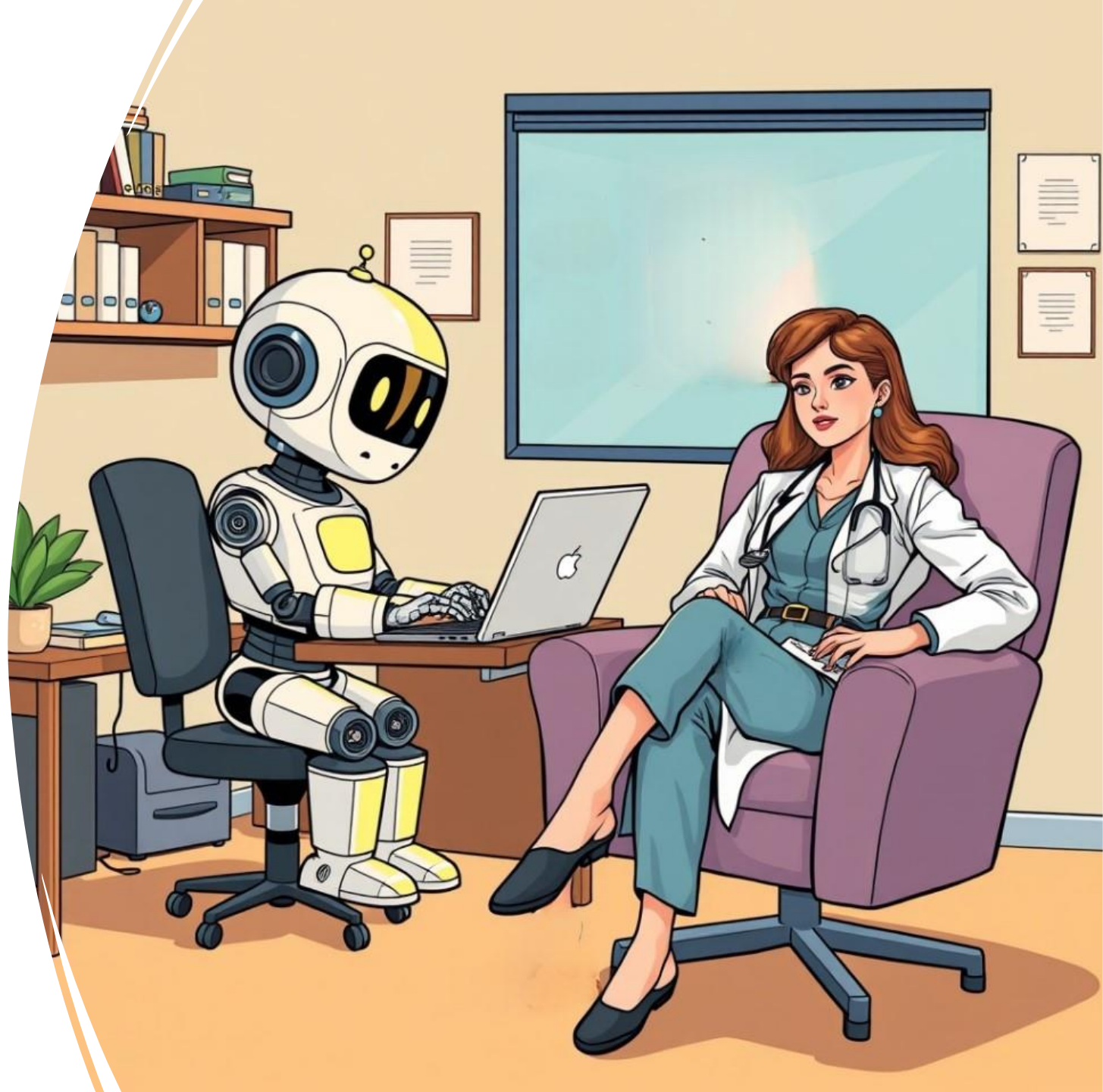
Writing Clubs

- Consider making a commitment with friends/colleagues to write and review together



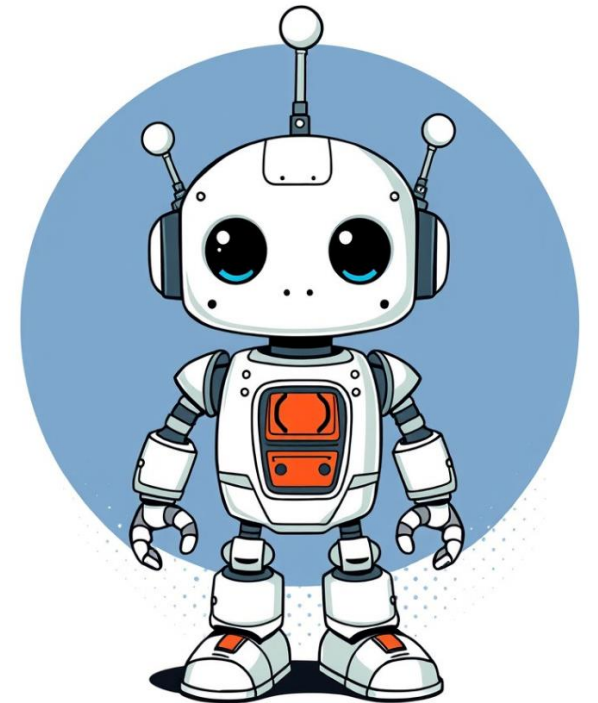
What about AI?

- Has already been credited with authorship in published articles
- Journals starting to issue positions
- Many pitfalls to AI authorship (e.g. hallucinations)
- Can be useful for generating outlines, brainstorming, improving clarity
- Check carefully for errors!



Springer Nature Policy

- **Authorship Criteria:** Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT cannot be authors.
- **Accountability:** Only humans are accountable for the work.
- **Documentation:** If using an LLM, document it in the Methods section.
- **Copy Editing:** AI-assisted copy editing (improving text for readability, grammar, etc.) does not need to be declared.
- **Definition of AI-Assisted Copy Editing:**
 - Enhances human-generated texts.
 - Fixes errors in grammar, spelling, and tone.
 - Excludes content generation or autonomous editing.
- **Final Text Accountability:** Humans must ensure the final text reflects the authors' work and take responsibility for edits.





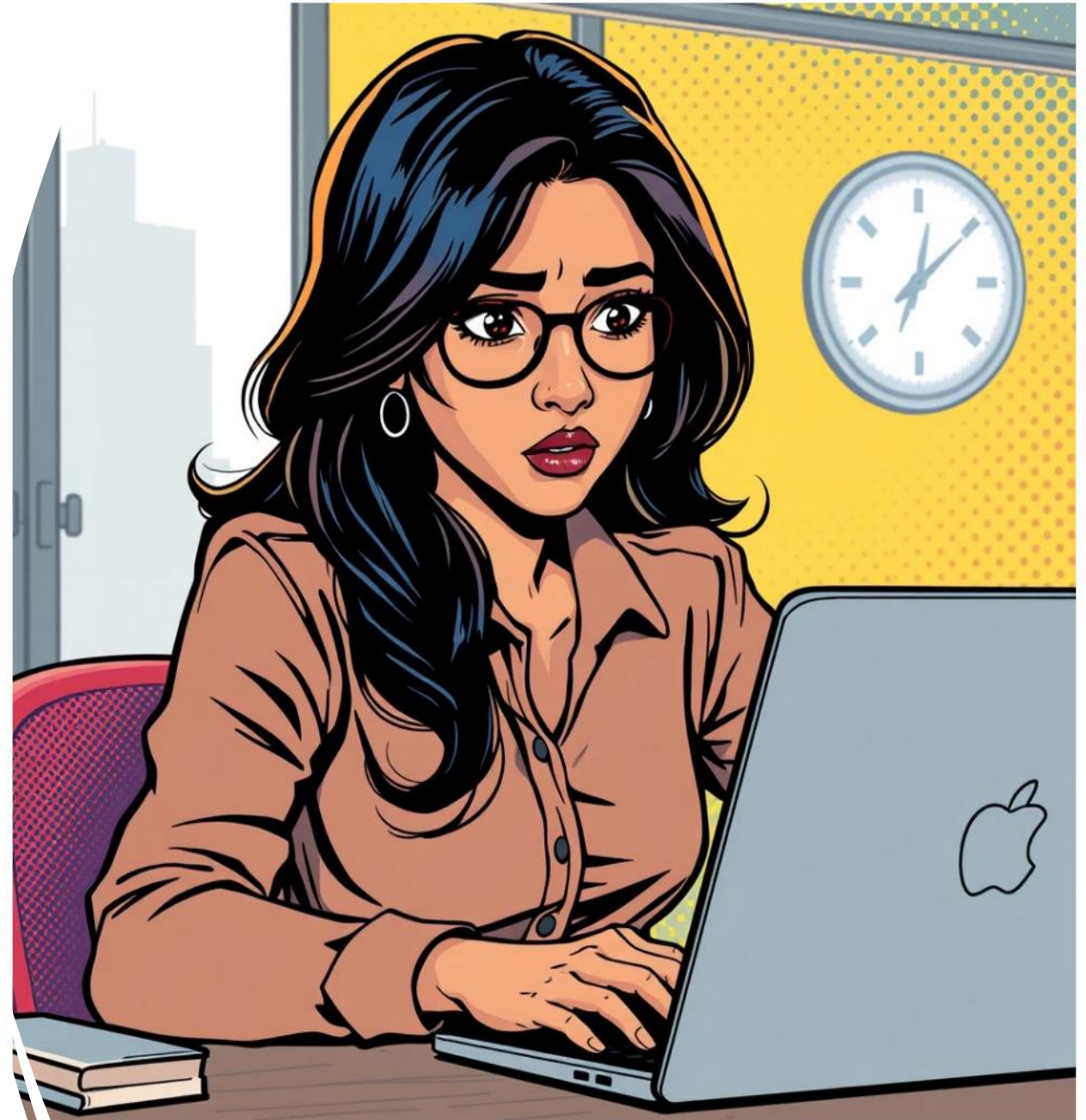
Question to Chat GPT: What are the 5 most widely read articles by Jennifer Thull-Freedman? Please provide full references.

- 1. Thull-Freedman J, Noel M. (2023).** "We Can End the Harm Caused by Preventable Needle Pain: The Promise of Quality Improvement." *Hospital Pediatrics*, 13(12): e384–e386. This commentary discusses the significance of quality improvement initiatives to minimize needle pain for children in clinical settings.
- 2. Bar Am N, Thull-Freedman J, Ali S. (2021).** "Practice Patterns and Assessment of Needs for Pediatric Pain Management in Alberta Emergency Departments." *Open Access Emergency Medicine*, 13: 587-594. This study examines pain management practices in Alberta's emergency departments, highlighting existing gaps and areas for QI.
- 3. Ali S, Thull-Freedman J, et al. (2022).** "The Efficacy of Topical Anesthesia in Pediatric Emergency Medicine: A Comprehensive Review." *Pediatric Emergency Care Journal*. This article reviews the effectiveness of topical anesthesia in reducing pain in pediatric emergency settings, addressing factors influencing its adoption in emergency medicine.
- 4. Thull-Freedman J, Atkinson P, et al. (2020).** "A Survey of Procedural Pain Practices in Pediatric Emergency Medicine." *Emergency Medicine Journal*. This survey investigates the frequency and management of procedural pain, finding considerable variability and a need for standardized pain management practices across settings.
- 5. Thull-Freedman J, Noel M, et al. (2023).** "Improving Pediatric Pain Outcomes Through Distraction Techniques and Quality Initiatives." *Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine*. This article explores how distraction techniques contribute to better pediatric pain management.

Hallucination!

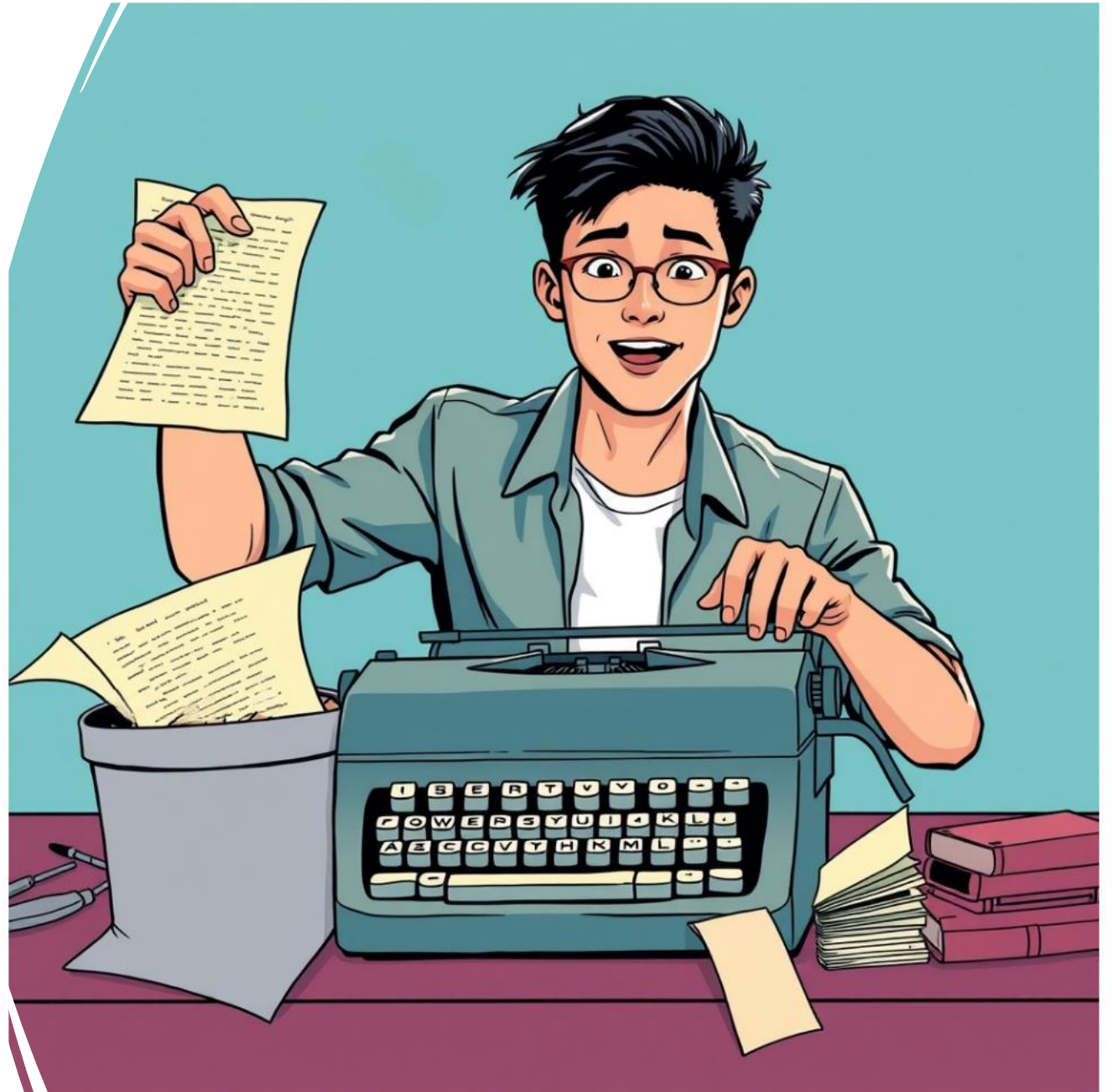
Preparing for Submission

- Ensure all co-authors approve final draft
- Cover letter
 - Makes a first impression on editors. Should be brief and highlight strengths of study.
- Files and formatting
 - Double-check author instructions
- COI forms
 - Usually required of all authors, but not always at time of submission
- Typical response time approximately 1-2 months



Revise and Resubmit

- Respond fully to each and every comment
- Cut and paste comments into new document or table
- Be humble and appreciative in tone
- Circulate revisions and responses to co-authors and request fast review (e.g. 7 days)



Accepted!



- Notify all coauthors
- Send a pdf and article citation to all coauthors when published

Congratulations!



Step-by-Step Summary

1. Start writing at the start of the project
2. Figure out the story you will tell
3. Clarify authors and order
4. Decide where you want to tell your story (2 journals)
5. Create an outline using your reporting standard, author instructions, and an example study
6. Turn your outline into a junk draft with filler sentences and dummy tables and figures
7. Make a timeline for each section and set up regular meetings with your supervisor
8. Consider working with friends for motivation
9. Write a cover letter that shares your story. What's the problem you're addressing, what's the gap readers will care about, and what are you contributing?
10. Plan to revise and resubmit, and remember to celebrate when you're finally published!

