

Success in Publishing: navigating the process



- Part I: the writing process: Nancy Riggs
- Part II: submission and review – what comes next: Robinson Cecil
- the rules 😊
 - stop us any time with questions – but try to make them “global”
 - it may be disruptive to come and go – be conscious of people around you

Part I: Before you begin and as you writing



- A few things to think about before you start
- Some best practices in constructing a manuscript

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But first:

- how many of you have written a manuscript already?
- how many have submitted a manuscript?

From the beginning

- You're finishing up your research and thrilled about your results
- You have a novel idea that apparently hasn't been discussed before
- You have an enormous pile of maps / seismic / analyses / video footage / remote imagery and synthesis

IT'S TIME TO WRITE THAT PAPER!

From the beginning


- Audience!
 - choose the most appropriate journal – think about your primary idea
 - check the website for each journal
- Think about who your co-authors should be (if any)
- Refine the topic
- WRITE!

Audience: use the journal

Home / Publications / Journals

Geosphere

Readers



Readers

Authors

Geosphere Impact Factor
2022: 2.5
5-year: 3.4

[AUTHOR GUIDELINES >>](#)

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Overview

Geosphere is GSA's ambitious, online-only publication that addresses the growing need for timely publication of data-driven research results, including those that cannot be addressed by traditional formats. The journal's rigorously peer-reviewed, high-quality research papers target an international audience in all geoscience fields.

Geosphere's broad scope and flexible format encourages extensive use of color, animations, interactivity, and oversize figures (maps, cross sections, etc.), and provides easy access to digital data such as GIS databases and modeling results.

Scope and content types

Geosphere publishes papers which are fundamental and complete data-driven primary research contributions within the purview of the geosciences. As such, they include:

- **Research Articles**
 - Research across the broad sweep of the geosciences;
 - Research at the intersection between the human culture(s) and the geosciences, and including geological education, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in the geosciences, geoheritage, archaeological geology, geologically informed land use, and other topics pertinent to geoscientists;
- **Software Contributions** to be utilized for publishing new software, Web services, ontologies, and such, that will be made freely available to the scientific and educational communities; and
- **Comments and Replies** to provide a forum in which published papers can be discussed.

Themed issues: Geosphere encourages themed issues with papers joined in collections devoted to the same topic or region that span multiple issues of the journal. Themed Issue guidelines can be found [here \(https://pubs.geoscienceworld.org/geosphere/pages/themeguide\)](https://pubs.geoscienceworld.org/geosphere/pages/themeguide).

All Geosphere papers are subject to [GSA's Ethical Guidelines for Publication](#).

Audience: use the journal

- Model how you construct the manuscript on a published paper (structure, formatting, diagrams, tables, etc.)

A caveat about journals and choice

- “Predatory journals”
 - flashy emails promising the world
 - “your colleagues will all see your work”
 - ask around – ask colleagues/mentors

Audience

- keep in mind that if you are writing for a “general” journal, you must assume relatively little inferred knowledge (your reader knows much less about your topic than you do...)

Who are your co-authors?

- Everyone who had a substantial contribution in framing the problem and its resolution.
 - all authors must contribute to writing the paper, whether literally or through ideas
 - many journals require confirmation
- When in doubt, consult your dissertation / thesis / post-doc supervisor

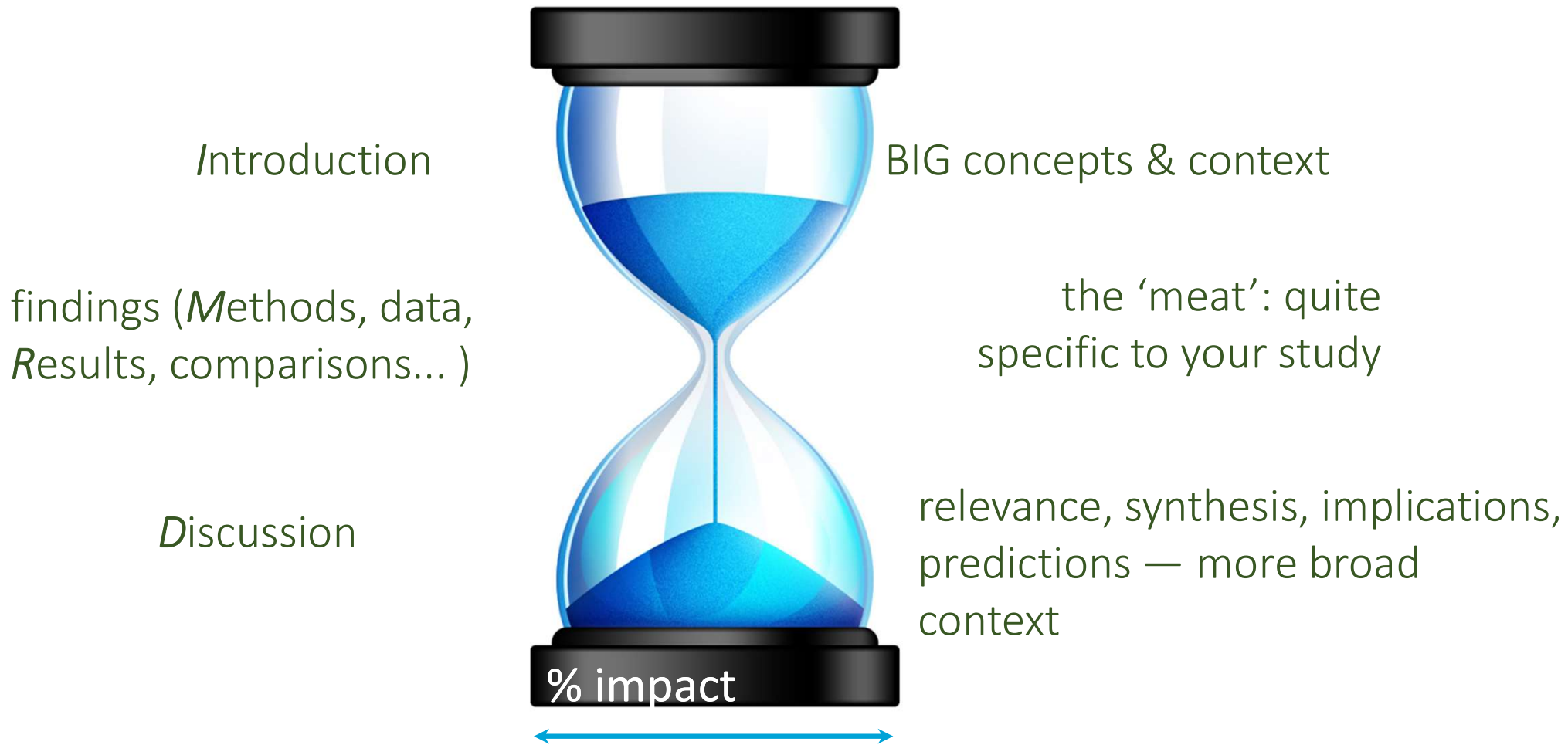
What is important?

- Most ideas have value
- Frame your idea in a way that your officemate / partner / colleague can see its value: why would someone read about this?

Write!

- Hourglass structure
- IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion)
 - what parts of the paper will deliver the greatest impact of your work?
 - the wider parts are not more important, but are broader (bigger ideas)

Hourglass structure: IMRAD



Write!

- Think very seriously about writing an outline first...
- Make a list of likely figures and insert them in the outline
- Are you writing a paper from your thesis/dissertation (the „Q“ in following slides)?



Write the Introduction

- Follow the scientific method
 - what is known
 - what is not known / poorly understood / contradictory to the previous ideas: *What is the problem you are addressing?*
- "Q" – cut the text as much as possible – be focused on most important points

INTRODUCTION



Write the Introduction

- Follow the scientific method
 - why you used the method / field site / images you did – how it/they are THE way to solve the problem
 - a bit about your conclusions
 - SET THE STAGE for the paper
- Some people write the Introduction last

The other parts

- Methods
 - sufficiently descriptive that they can be replicated
 - (“Q” – what was important for the thesis, what were “common” methods)
- Data (results):
 - all your results whether they support your ideas or not
 - no bias, no interpretation at this point
 - “Q” – may not need everything

METHODS / RESULTS



The other parts

- Discussion

- your ideas and interpretations!

- no new data in this section

- how your data and ideas mesh with other studies

- “Q” – probably most of this 😊

- The title (!!)

(write this last)

- why would someone choose to read your paper?

- be descriptive and specific

DISCUSSION



Other tips for preparing the manuscript

- Write to your figures
 - “a picture paints a thousand words...” (what words are you replacing)?
 - how does a figure support the text?
 - a figure caption should concisely highlight the take-away points
- Write, put the manuscript down for three days, and rewrite

Other tips for preparing the manuscript

- Put your co-authors to work! At minimum, make them read a draft.
- When using contributions from co-authors, don't hesitate to rewrite in your own voice

Last but not least

- NEVER start your paper (Abstract or Introduction) with “We” or “I”. The paper is about rocks or techniques or many other things, but not about you.
- Don't write to be understood, write so that you cannot be misunderstood