

## Student Guide to Getting Published

Marilyn Smith-Stoner, RN-BC, PhD

[mstoner@csusb.edu](mailto:mstoner@csusb.edu)

February 2011

As a student you produce a lot of intellectual work during your education. Many journals and newsletters/e-magazines would be interested in reviewing the work.

- First manuscript is likely to be a reflection piece
  - Think about a topic you are interested in
    - An experience you had
    - Experience that was powerful
    - Goals you have for your education or career
    - Reaction to something you studied and saw in practice
    - Description of someone meaningful such as a faculty member, patient or nurse
- Look at author guidelines for (in order), see Appendix
  - Web publications
  - Trade publications
- Consider writing with a staff nurse or colleague the first time, makes it more fun and you can motivate each other to keep going
- Campus writing resources
  - Asking a question:  
<http://www.questionpoint.org/crs/servlet/org.oclc.home.TFSRedirect?virtcategory=11352>
    - Search guides
    - APA guide
    - You can look at back issues of most nursing publications in the online library, log on to: <http://www.lib.csusb.edu>, then CINAHL and then in the upper left corner of the page look at “publications”, you can look through current and prior issues of the journal you may be writing for.
  - Writing lab, need an appointment, once you have a first full draft of the article, take it to them, do not wait until you think the article is finished
  - Faculty may want to help mentor you, visit during office hours, doesn't have to be a faculty member you have in class, see if one faculty member is an expert in your interest area, send your documents ahead of time for the faculty to review
- Develop an aim for your manuscript, be clear about what you want to say
  - Create an outline of the author guidelines for outlines:  
<http://www.lavc.edu/library/outline.htm>
  - Conduct of brief literature search on the topic, see what others have written
    - Include their comments in your outline, cite properly, look for reviews of the literature, look in professional organization websites & government sites

- Create a reference list, only include articles and web sites you are using for the article
  - Consider adding interviews to strengthen the content of your article. Local nursing experts or patients with the experience you are writing about can help your manuscript. Cite accordingly as a personal communication according to APA
- Select the publication you will submit to
- Focus your article to the guidelines of the journal
- A complete review of journals is available at:  
*Nurse Author Editor*  
<http://www.nurseauthoreditor.com/library.asp>
- Before deciding on a journal, read a few issues to get a sense of the publication
- Consider sending a query letter to the editor of the publication/web site
- Never send a query to more than one editor at a time
  - Guidelines for query letters: <http://www.writing-world.com/basics/email.shtml>
    - State the aim of your article
    - Let the editor know when the manuscript will be ready
    - Describe any photographs or multimedia that will be available to supplement the article
  - Allow 1-2 weeks for a response, check your email regularly and respond promptly, even if you find out the editor is not interested in your article, send a thank you note for taking the time to review the proposal
  - Be sure to check your email regularly when waiting for a reply
  - Do not attach an email note that you want to be notified when the editor reads the email
- The first draft
  - Follow the format of the author guidelines, no deviation
  - Not all publications use APA as their formatting guideline
  - Follow the outline you created, especially if you submitted it to the editor of the journal, the editor will be expecting an article that follows the outline
- Once you have created your first draft, go the writing lab and have them review it
  - The writing lab staff gives excellent advise, but not necessarily directed at a nursing publication, get a faculty member to look at the draft after you've corrected the writing lab issues
- Consider how to illustrate the main points in your article
  - Get help with photography. Some tips for photography:
    - Use the draft of your paper to determine which key points need to be illustrated. Underline those points and work with your photographer to develop the images. If you are using a university photograph they will appreciate all the detail you can give them to what the image is supposed to represent
    - Be flexible in scheduling their time and prepare the environment so their time is minimized



- Every journal needs to format the final version of the article given the page restrictions of the journal issue your article will appear.
- A copy editor will review the content, grammar, punctuation and suggest changes. The copy editor will also find additional areas that may need further clarification.
- Every editor I have ever worked with has improved even the most cherished thoughts I have had. Be humble and open to changes suggested by the professional editors at the publication

#### Post Acceptance Work

- Once your article is accepted for publication, there is still work to do to. Ensure the final printed version is correct
  - Acknowledge acceptance, usually in the form of an email, promptly
  - Complete any paperwork that transfers copyright to the publisher promptly, generally speaking you do not own the article once it is published

#### Suggested list of Publications for First Time authors

Advance for Nurses: <http://nursing.advanceweb.com>

Nurseweek: <http://www.nurse.com>

StuNurse: <http://www.stunurse.com/>

Working Nurse: <http://www.workingnurse.com/>

Minority Nurse: <http://www.minoritynurse.com/>

Dimensions in Critical Care Nursing: <http://journals.lww.com/dccjournal/pages/default.aspx>

#### Examples of student published work:

##### **[A Cell Phone Policy for Nursing Students](#)**

Star Hartzell and Lydea Millet

**Stunurse**

<http://www.stunurse.com/content/a-cell-phone-policy-nursing-students>

##### **[C.A.R.E Model for Postmortem Care](#)**

Pair of Students: Ng Eboka and Genevee Fallesgon

**ADVANCE for Nurses**

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/Features/Articles/Holistic-Nursing-at-End-of-Life.aspx>

##### **[Critical Care Visitation and the Headache that Follows](#)**

Nijhenee Chakma and Justin-Paul Ocampo,

**Dimension of Critical Care Nursing Jan/Feb 2011**

[http://journals.lww.com/dccjournal/Fulltext/2011/01000/Personal\\_Reflection\\_\\_Critical\\_Care\\_Visitation\\_and.8.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/dccjournal/Fulltext/2011/01000/Personal_Reflection__Critical_Care_Visitation_and.8.aspx)

##### **[Discharge of Homeless Patients](#)**

Pair of students: Cathi Patterson & Bunni Brown

## Nurse Week

<http://news.nurse.com/article/20100614/NATIONAL02/106140071/-1/frontpage>

### [Shackles in the Hospital](#)

Jennifer Reyes Cruz and Julian Canlas

ADVANCE for Nurses

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/ebook/magazine.aspx?EBK=NSG091310#>

### [The Nurse's Role in Medication Reconciliation](#)

Darcy Cloutier-Fernald and MariGrace Bauer

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/Student-and-New-Grad-Center/Student-Top-Story/Medication-Reconciliation.aspx>

### [Central Line Care Saves Money](#)

Pair of students: Jeremy Arcaira and Rai Claronino

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/Student-and-New-Grad-Center/Student-Top-Story/Central-Line-Care.aspx>

Did you know?

- Most published work is done for free? There are exceptions.
- You do not own the rights to the publication, unless that is specified in the copyright transfer form
- You cannot photocopy or distribute copies of your article without the publisher's permission, since they usually own the copyright after publication
- You should add the reference to your resume under a special heading: Publications
- You can cite your own publication in your work, include on your resume
- Many nurses have a subject they feel passionate about and write many articles on the topic in their professional career. Each time you write a new article on the topic, the next article should have a different focus and not simply be a restatement of what you have said in other articles. This is called *self plagiarism*
- Sign up eTable of Contents alerts to stay current on your topic of choice. Once you find publications that interesting to you, go to the journal website and sign up for emails to receive the Table of Contents when a new issue is published
- Sign up for Medscape Nursing email alerts to get a general sense of important topics:  
<http://www.medscape.com/nurses>