

Introduction to the Special Symposium on Writing Articles for *Psychological Bulletin*

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In psychology as in other sciences, what matters is not just what you say, but how you say it. You need not only to have a message but also to communicate it in a clear, organized, and persuasive way. Writing a good article means not only adhering to American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines but also knowing how to write the article as effectively as possible (see, e.g., APA, 1994; Sternberg, 1993).

Because I have seen article reviewers react as much to how writers say what they say as to what the writers actually say, I decided to organize a symposium on how to write an article for *Psychological Bulletin*. I thought such a symposium might be especially useful because the nature of the journal requires strategies and tactics of writing that differ somewhat from those used for the empirical articles to which psychologists are more accustomed. Moreover, a successful submission to *Bulletin* is quite different from the literature review that typically accompanies a doctoral dissertation, or even that which might make a good book chapter.

The symposium contains articles on the main types of submissions *Bulletin* has published: review articles in general, meta-analytic reviews in particular, critiques of review articles, and methodological articles. In 1995, after the symposium articles were commissioned, *Psychological Bulletin* stopped accepting methodological articles, which are going to be published in *Psychological Methods*, starting in January 1996. The principles for writing methodological articles, however, remain important, so the article on methodological articles is included here.

I hope you find the symposium useful and that it encourages you to submit to the journal.

References

- American Psychological Association. (1994). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
- Sternberg, R. J. (1993). *The psychologist's companion* (3rd ed.). New York: Cambridge University Press.

All the articles in this special section underwent the normal review process.

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