



Writing Academic Articles

The process of writing academic articles can be rather daunting for those who do not have experience in this area. Below are a couple resources aimed at community members who are part of community-based research teams involved in academic writing:

- 1) Bordeaux, B.C, C. Wiley, S.D. Tandon, C.R. Horowitz, P.B. Brown and E.B. Bass. 2007. [Guidelines for Writing Manuscripts About Community-Based Participatory Research for Peer-Reviewed Journals](#). *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action* 1(3): 281-288.

(Feel free to also browse the journal of [Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action](#), which welcomes submissions from community organizations involved in health research)

- 2) The following table is an excerpt from O'Toole, T.P, K.F. Aaron, M.H. Chin, C. Horowitz and F. Tyson. 2003. [Community-based Participatory Research: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Need for a Common Language](#). *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 18(7): 592-294. It provides a good template for the outline of an academic paper adopting a community-based research approach.

Proposed Process for Describing Community-Based Participatory Research Findings in Health Sciences Literature

Introduction

- What is the problem being studied, including its prevalence? Are there population groups or communities that are disproportionately affected?
- Are the affected communities or population groups historically difficult to research, poorly understood, or traditionally disenfranchised, making CBPR an appropriate methodology?
- What are the limitations or biases associated with using traditional research techniques in studying the problem? Are these limitations evident in the current body of literature?
- What are the advantages to adopting a CBPR approach to this study?
- State the explicit outcomes intended from this study in terms of (1) advancing the field of knowledge about a particular problem; (2) testing a community-based or targeted intervention; or (3) describing a process for sustaining or translating research findings, interventions, or outcomes within a community.

Methods

Setting and patients

- Describe the study population in terms of how it defines a community. How is it organized or structured? What are the points of contact and means of influence?
- How is the setting for your study or intervention relevant to the community?

Intervention

- What roles did community members, community leaders, or a community board play in each stage of the project, from design and implementation through analysis and



interpretation?

- What safeguards were in place to ensure data integrity and methodologic rigor in the study design and implementation?

Analysis

- How was a community perspective incorporated into the data analysis and interpretation?

Results

- Describe your results in the context of the stated study objectives, adhering to established standards and practices for presenting scientific data
- Report both process and outcomes measures related to an intervention, including community-level findings
- What is happening as a result of this study within the community where the project occurred?

Discussion

- What contributions does your research bring to the field?
- What were the challenges and opportunities specific to adopting a CBPR approach that you encountered during your study?
- How were the results shared with the community?
- How are your findings generalizable to and replicable in other communities, in other settings or circumstances, or to policy makers?
- What limitations need to be considered and how should they be viewed when considering your findings?