

Written Dissemination: Turning Your Dissertation into a Journal Article

Writing a journal article in order to publish your research findings is one of the most important ways to share your hard work with the whole world! But one thing to keep in mind is the fact that both dissertations and articles published in scientific journals are very different in terms of format. Since converting your dissertation into a journal article requires effort, time and following certain steps, we have ideas you can consider making this process as effective and enjoyable as possible.

First of all, let us reflect on the differences between a dissertation and a research article as shown below:

	Dissertation	Journal Article
Sections	Contains all sections of the research study	Shorter than the dissertation. Concise, thus NO copy and paste! Needs to be a summary of the research.
Key Skill	Explaining	Summarizing
Abstract	Extensive	Short, straight to the point, and concise
Introduction	Longer as it is used to show that the researcher is quite familiar with the literature in their chosen field	Shorter because it is assumed the target audience is familiar with the necessary background to understand the study
Results Section	Include all findings	Should only include what needs to be presented in order to support the research problem or hypothesis
Discussion Section	Extensive - full of details that allow reflection and long explanations	Quite focused - it will only include the parts that are connected with the results presented in the paper.



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Now that we know the main differences between dissertations and journal articles, let's get to the practical side, the tips and tricks to convert your dissertation into a successful journal article!

- Try to find ways to divide your dissertation in order to write two or three papers from the findings collected. This is definitely possible! In fact, most well-known researchers do this. How? *Extract the data that answers just one research question. This should help you write a more focused article that can be easier to digest, thus reach a wider audience.*
- Good language and structure are of paramount importance. Poor language or word choices are not an option! *Ensure you edit heavily before attempting to publish.*
- Simple is beautiful, and that also applies to the way ideas are presented in order to tell a coherent story that is engaging and easy to understand.
- No need to discuss all results, just the ones connected to the research question selected.
- Ensure that your title matches the contents of your journal article: Catchy, but most importantly, coherent and cohesive.
Guess what? No need to have the same title as the one from the dissertation!
- Publish in an open access journal to reach more people. *Consider the concept that knowledge should be a right, not a privilege.*