

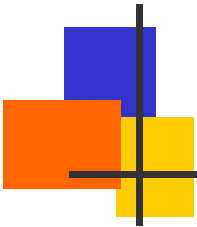
LSU

AgCenter

Research & Extension

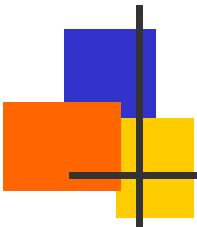
Journal Article Writing and Publishing: Your Guide to Academic Success

Gail L. Cramer
Professor and Head
Louisiana State University



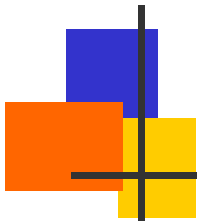
Journal articles are the measure of research performance and are highly correlated with salary.

Your teaching and service activities must be adequate, but your research output will determine your future.



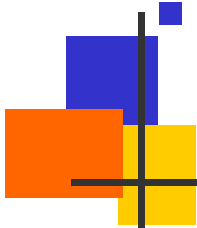
Incentives To Publish

- Financial.
- Promotion and tenure.
- Acceptance in profession.
- Professional status.



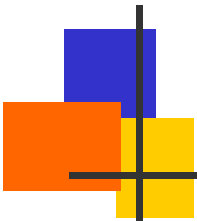
The Research Process

- Select an important, original problem or issue.
 - One that has a major impact on U.S. or world.
 - One that has a major impact on agriculture, agribusiness, natural resources, or economic development.
- Select a problem where you can use economic theory, statistics, or other scientific approaches.
- Select a problem that adds to economic theory or methodology.



Dr. Wade Brorsen, professor of
Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma
State University, reminds us that
research starts with a problem, not a
technique or a data set.

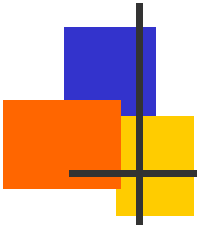
Our objective is to solve the problem not
to apply a technique or to analyze data.



Most applied papers follow five standard sections.
These sections are as follows:

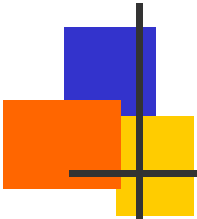
1. Introduction.
2. Theory.
3. Procedure and data.
4. Results.
5. Summary and conclusions.

The introduction and the summary and conclusions
are the most important parts of a paper.



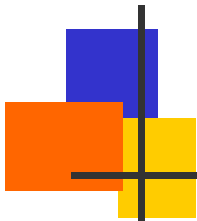
Introduction

- The introduction must state why the problem is important and that the paper offers something new.
 - The purpose of this paper is to (determine, discover, find, test, develop).
 - This paper goes beyond past research by ...
- Use a few sentences to outline the paper.



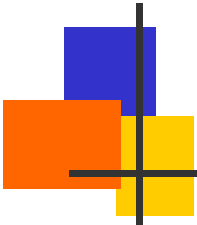
Theory

- The theory section is used to specify the empirical model.
- The paper must argue for the superiority of your approach.



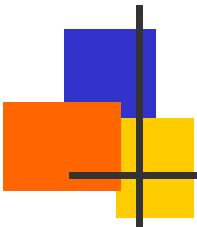
Procedure

- The procedure is linked to the theory section.
- All variables and model specifications should be described.



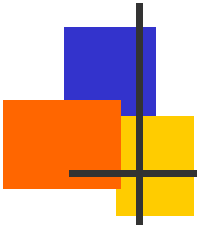
Data

- The data section should provide complete sources.



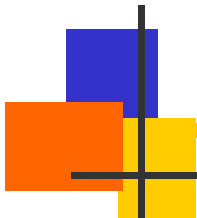
Results

- Empirical estimates and their economic and policy implications should be discussed and contrasted with those of previous research.



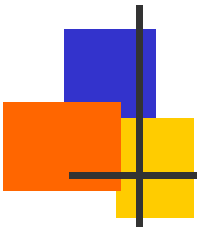
Conclusions

- Summarize the paper.
- State what can be learned from the study.
- Any limitations should be revealed.
- End the paper with a strong statement.



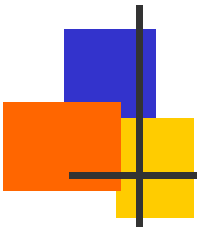
Authorship

1. Error on the side of including too many authors.
2. Whoever writes the first draft is senior author.
3. A student is the first author if he/she writes the first draft.
4. If there are equal contributions, senior authorship is shared.



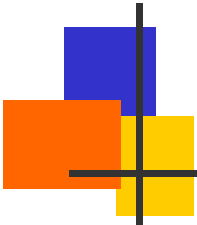
Selection of Publication Outlet

- Submit to most prestigious journal where it could have a reasonable chance of acceptance.
- All journal articles can be published somewhere.



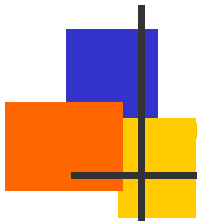
The Review Process

1. Have a paper reviewed within your department by two or three colleagues.
2. Send paper to be reviewed by two authors cited in your references.
3. Submit your paper to one journal.
4. Wait four or five months for a reply.



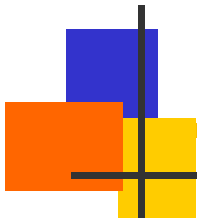
The Review Process (cont.)

- A letter from the editor will tell you if the paper is:
 - Accepted.
 - Accepted, but subject to minor revisions.
 - Unacceptable in its present form.
 - Rejected.
- The first three are favorable.



The Review Process (cont.)

- The editor's letter is critical.
 - Do what the editor says!
 - Do not argue with the editor!
- If reviewers' comments are numbered one to thirty, respond to each comment numbered one to thirty
- Show appreciation to reviewers.

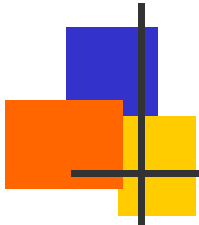


The Review Process (cont.)

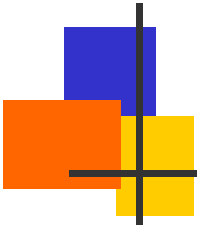
Days in Review to Final Decision

Days ^{1/}	Accept	Reject
Average Days	160	89
<u>Examples</u>		
0-28	6.5	18.3
29-56	5.8	5.8
57-84	5.1	26.0
197-224	14.5	1.8
225-252	7.2	1.3
253-280	5.8	0.9
Over 280	5.8	0.9

^{1/} AJAE: 1996-1999

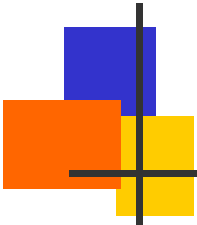


**The acceptance rate in journals
is from 15 to 30 percent.**



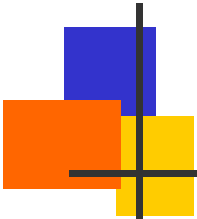
Manuscript Preparation

- Text Preparation (8 ½ by 11 inches).
 - Double space all material.
 - Footnotes on separate page.
 - Tables.
 - References.
 - Use 12 point type
- References.
 - Cite works only in your reference list.
 - All citations should appear in the text (Jones, p. 5) or (Jones 1971, p.5).



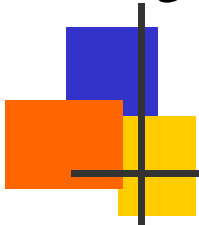
Manuscript Preparation (cont.)

- Tables and figures.
 - Put on separate page.
- Page charge.
 - Support of journal comes from page charges of \$50 to \$100 per page.
- Submissions of accepted manuscripts.
 - Prepare abstract page.
 - Transfer of copyright form.
 - Submit electronic copy on 3½ inch diskette.



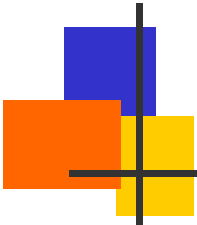
Manuscript Flow

1. Author sends manuscript to editor.
2. Editor acknowledges receipt of manuscript with a post card.
3. Manuscript is logged in editor's data system.
4. Editor sends paper to knowledgeable co-editor.
5. Co-editor sends paper to three reviewers.



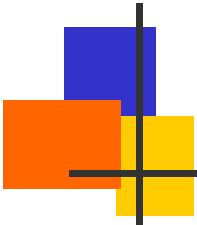
Manuscript Flow (cont.)

6. Reviewers evaluate paper and send comments to editor.
7. Editor receives comments and then summarizes them.
8. If necessary, the editor reads the paper.
9. Editor sends decision to author(s).
10. If other than minor adjustments are necessary, the paper goes back through the entire review process.



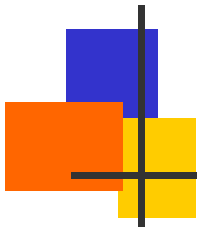
Remember reviewers are not paid!

The review is a professional courtesy.

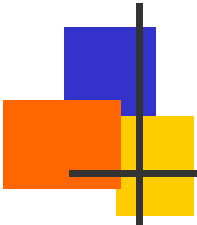


Summary

- Follow these simple rules to be a successful publisher:
 - Select important original topics.
 - Use appropriate procedures.
 - Organize the paper.
 - Communicate results effectively.
 - Select an appropriate outlet.
 - Deal with editors' and reviewers' comments.



Publishing goes to those who persevere



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