

The Writing Center @ KUMC

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Getting Published

Many students think about publication. They think about reaching beyond a course, a department, or a university to a wider audience with a message. Sometimes, the best way to make an impact, i.e., shape policy, expand knowledge, or influence behaviors, practices, or beliefs, is to write. There are other ways, of course, but writing can maximize the uptake of one's message.

If you have a project that needs an outlet, where do you begin? Here are some obvious and not-so obvious ways to get started:

- Ask published authors, e.g., faculty and peers, which journals to submit work to. They may be on a first-name basis with editors who you can contact.
- Ask research librarians the same question.
- Conduct a database search for journals in your field. You may want to use a smart search technology such as Elsevier's JournalFinder.
- Read the editorial statements issued by the journals that may be appropriate for your project. This info will tell you a lot about getting published.
- Keep abreast of research developments in your field.
- Read top-notch articles in your field.
- Compile a list of specialized/traditional outlets for your project.
- Compile a list of non-specialized or more general outlets such as blogs, magazines, and newsletters.
- Talk to interested parties if you're not sure what type of article to write.
- Join a writers support group that promotes publication for its members.
- Share your draft with trusted fellow writers and scholars.
- Present your project as a poster, talk, or lecture so that you can generate interest in your work and possibly receive feedback before publication.
- Write a summary or "elevator speech" of your work.
- Track every submission and promotion of your work.

There probably many more ways to get started with the publication journey and there are many things to take into consideration as you prepare to write or submit your work. For example, when you do get published, you are reviewed by experts and enter into an agreement with a publisher. Use all available resources to make an impact. Write on!