SUMMARY OF “COMMON REASONS WHY JOURNALS REJECT ARTICLES” (PP. 69-91).


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**Too Narrow or Too Broad:**
- Tip 1: Set article in broader context, historical background, and larger problems.
- Tip 2: Aim at broad academic audience; assume readers will have less knowledge than your expertise.
- Tip 3: Aim at a smart audience by avoiding encyclopedic information about context.
- Tip 4: Give pertinent examples to support your argument.
- Tip 5: Relate examples to the argument so that it’s neither too technical nor too narrow.
- Tip 6: Keep manuscript within journal’s expectations for length.
- Tip 7: Select the appropriate journal to match the focus of your manuscript.

**Off Topic:**
- Tip: Make sure the manuscript focus matches the interests of the journal.

**Not Scholarly:**
- Tip 1: Be meticulous about documentation.
- Tip 2: Cite recent literature.
- Tip 3: Cite multiple sources.
- Tip 4: Cite relevant literature.
- Tip 5: Reference debates in the field.
- Tip 6: Use discipline-related expertise.
- Tip 7: Provide a critical framework, i.e., your approach to your topic.
- Tip 8: Provide evidence for arguments; don’t just assert that an argument is true.

**Too Defensive:**
- Tip 1: Keep down the number of quotations; abridge the quotations used.
- Tip 2: Don’t quote famous authors unless a quote relates explicitly to your focus.
- Tip 3: Cite relevant documentation only and skip the rest.
- Tip 4: Avoid using jargon.
- Tip 5: “Delete all references to former incarnations” (p. 74) of the submitted manuscript.
- Tip 6: Mention disagreements with your arguments; acknowledge different perspectives.
Not Sufficiently Original:
Tip 1: Don’t replicate the work already done by others.
Tip 2: Focus on what’s new compared to others’ ideas.
Tip 3: If you offer arguments against other positions, only do so for real ones cited in the literature.
Tip 4: Explain what’s different or original about your focus.
Tip 5: Use phrases such as “The thesis of this paper is” or “I argue that…” or in some other way “claim your ideas.” (p. 75) The authors state that women often fail to do this.
Tip 6. Make the “voice” clear and active without moralizing what you write.

Poor Structure:
Tip 1: Make structure explicit with “summary paragraphs, subheads,” and transitions.
Tip 2: Stick to your point.
Tip 3: Delete redundant or irrelevant text.
Tip 4: Present facts or data in a clear context, related to a specific idea.
Tip 5: Give “your single significant idea” early in the manuscript.

Not Significant:
Tip 1: Explain the significance, e.g., no one else has written about this, solves a problem, etc.
Tip 2: Select the right journal.

Theoretically or Methodologically Flawed:
Tip 1: Get peer review before submitting your manuscript.
Tip 2: Explain your methodology in detail; cite others who’ve used it or similar methodology.
Tip 3: Balance theory and concrete examples or applications.
Tip 4: Indicate awareness of opposing views.
Tip 5: Review your analysis of data and interpretation of findings.

Too Many Misspellings and Grammatical Errors:
Tip 1: Complete exercises to improve your grammar.
Tip 2: Run a spell and grammar check.
Tip 3: Hire someone to review and edit ($5 to $25 per page).
Tip 4: Follow the journal’s submission guidelines.

No Good Argument:
Tip 1: Craft and present an argument early in your manuscript; express”a point of view intended to influence” the readers of the journal article (p. 82).
Tip 2: Test whether or not statements in the manuscript can elicit “I agree” or “I disagree.” (p. 83).
Tip 3: Avoid being dogmatic by “build(ing) in a consideration of opposing voices.”
Tip 4: Don’t substitute a “topic” for an “argument” as they are not the same.
Tip 5: Craft arguments in the style familiar to the journal context and discipline.