

From the Editor's Desk

We invite you to submit your research for consideration by *EHP*. Our peer review team of editors and reviewers consider numerous aspects of a manuscript when evaluating it for potential publication in *EHP*.

Here are some tips for producing a relevant, important, and high-quality manuscript.

1. Consider your audience

EHP's readership includes researchers from many fields, policy makers, and those with a general interest in environmental health. Choose plain language over jargon whenever possible.

2. Create a descriptive title

Your title will be the first thing readers see. Make sure it thoroughly and accurately describes your work but does not state the results or conclusions.

Titles are often tweeted and posted on social media, where they can be easily misused or misinterpreted if not clear. Ask a friend to look at your title with fresh eyes.

The title should include the following information, as appropriate:

- Exposure(s) and outcome(s) assessed
- Whether the study was observational or experimental
- For epidemiological studies—key characteristics of the study population (e.g., gender, age, location, cohort) and design
- For experimental studies—the experimental model, including species or *in vitro* system(s)
- For reviews—the evidence types (e.g., experimental or epidemiological) and the type of review

3. Clarify the importance of your work

Use the Introduction to provide a clear rationale for the study and explain how your work advances environmental health knowledge. State your objective clearly, and indicate how it helps fill important knowledge gaps based on previously published work.

4. Justify your approach

Show why the experimental model and/or study population and the overall study design are suitable for meeting your objectives. Justify these aspects of your study in the Methods.

5. Use appropriate citations

Select citations thoughtfully, choosing the original publication that is specific to the point you are making; do not cite a paper that only cites the original publication. For more general statements, select a high-quality review article.

Bonus tip: Place citations immediately after the content they support rather than grouped together at the end of a sentence or paragraph.

6. Choose your words carefully

EHP screens all submitted manuscripts for plagiarism. We consider plagiarism to be the presentation of words or ideas of others without a proper citation or credit. We also look for self-plagiarism (reusing one's own previously published words) and duplicate publication (reusing tables or figures without appropriate attribution or permission).

Authors are responsible for obtaining all necessary permissions and for attributing reused material in accordance with the copyright requirements. Be sure to obtain permission before you submit your manuscript.

Alternatively, modify text or images to ensure your content is your own—but don't forget to cite the original source. See our [Publication Ethics page](#) for more details.

7. Report your methods and results in full

EHP emphasizes complete reporting to ensure transparency and reproducibility. When writing your methods, include enough detail that another researcher could replicate your experiments.

When citing a method from another publication, provide a brief overview of the method and any modifications you may have made. Ensure the cited study describes the method in full detail to allow replication of those methods. When in doubt, include more information!

Report in full all results used to support conclusions or inferences, including null findings and results of sensitivity analyses.

8. Write informative figure captions and table notes

Figures and tables should be interpretable without having to read the entire manuscript. In your figure captions and table notes, include a brief description of what is being shown. However, do not include interpretations or conclusions. Be sure to define all elements of the figure.

See *EHP*'s author instructions for [figure captions](#) and [table notes](#) for more information.

9. Use Supplemental Material wisely

Report all results used to support your primary conclusions in the main text. Reserve Supplemental Material for data that are not critical to the main points of your paper. These might include tables and figures with results of sensitivity analyses, raw data, and other items outlined in our [guidelines for Supplemental Material](#).

10. Embrace negative results

Negative results do not necessarily undermine your conclusions. Discussing negative results in the main text of your paper only strengthens your work by pointing out avenues for follow-up study.

As noted before, report all data and analyses used to draw your conclusions in the main text, even if they are negative.

11. Recognize the limits of $p < 0.05$

Statistical significance does not prove causality, and results that are precise and consistent may be highly informative even if they are not significant according to a set p -value.

Consult with a biostatistician to determine appropriate sample sizes, and carefully consider sources of uncontrolled variation when designing, analyzing, and interpreting your study.

12. Interpret data objectively

Make sure your conclusions are well supported by the data presented and avoid overinterpreting your results. For example, beware of drawing general conclusions when your findings are specific to or dependent upon a particular population, animal model, or test system. Discuss the limitations of your study design and findings when drawing conclusions.

13. Discuss potential human health implications

For experimental studies, justify how your experimental model (*in vitro* or *in vivo*), exposure levels, and conditions relate to human exposures and health outcomes or are relevant for exploring mechanisms of action.

Consult *EHP*'s Author Hub

Have additional questions? Our [Author Hub](#) includes valuable information on the types of articles we publish, journal policies, author guidelines, and what to expect after you submit your manuscript.

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