



Snowflakes

Every one of us in this world is a unique person with different skills, interests, talents and capacity. Human beings have been compared to billions of snowflakes each of which has a different intricate non-repetitive microscopic pattern. However we all have in common the need to communicate our feelings about a subject to a fellow colleague. The end result of our writing should result in a work that improves the understanding or management of a medical condition. Writing has been compared to dancing; it is a skill to be nurtured only by careful practice. We write for our readers, so we should know what their interests are. One way is to select an issue that has been burning inside us for some time, (we all feel like that sometimes). Often an unexpected case, complication, or incident makes a deep impression on us.

We all write for our own reasons. Some of them may be to inform of an unusual condition, to educate about an important issue, to hypothesize a theory, to describe an unusual situation, to discuss or debate controversies, to seek support for a cause and many other reasons. Basically writing is a communication process between us and the readers. The media we have chosen is the printed word. Initially we ourselves should be personally convinced about our own opinions. We should feel that we have an important message to deliver. We should be very selective on how to frame our thoughts. Use words that clearly express the intensity of feelings while maintaining simplicity and clarity. Ideas should be communicated straight forward in simple lucid terms. The IMRaD format has stood the test of time and it is a useful mandatory guideline for good medical writing.

Written words are different from spoken words. Once printed they are recorded permanently and hence cannot be retracted. So be careful about what is certain, and any uncertainties or ambiguities should be clearly stated as such. So all controversial statements need to be stated and supported with strong supportive evidence only.

Regular writing releases us of a large burden which needed to be shared with others. We have a better understanding and appreciation of the subject matter after finishing writing the article. A complex subject gets broken down and presented in a more palatable form. Some of the readers may have different opinions about the subject and a discussion can be generated by way of a letter to the editor in the next issue. Lastly, remember we all have the creativity in us, so let it out by expressing your views in the journal.