

How to Turn Your Thesis into an Article

8 Tips for Converting Your Terminal Degree for Journal Publication

The main differences between a thesis and an article:

THESIS	JOURNAL ARTICLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meets academic requirements• Reviewed by select committee members• Chapters• Lengthy, no word limits• Table of contents• Lengthy research of literature• IRB approval described in detail• Description and copies of tools used• All findings presented• Verb tenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meets journalistic standards• Reviewed by panel of blind reviewers• Sections• Word limits• Manuscript format• Succinct research of literature• IRB described in 1 to 3 sentences• Essential and succinct tool information• Selected findings presented• Verb tenses are fairly consistent

Tip 1: Identify the appropriate target journal

- Read the aims and scope of the journal and make sure that your paper is in the journal's scope. If your research falls outside of the aims and scope, look for a more suitable home for your paper.*
- Check the journals' recommended structure and reference style for articles on its website typically found in information for authors' section to ensure that your paper is not desk rejected.

* For a quick check of where to submit your article, use platforms such as the Elsevier Journal Finder.

Tip 2: Shorten the length of your thesis

- Journal articles are much shorter than theses/dissertations/capstones, so be sure to use a tighter frame work and a more compact style:
 1. Treat your thesis as a separate work.
 2. Paraphrase and express the same ideas in different ways.
 3. Select and repurpose parts of your thesis.
 4. Highlight the key points you want the readers to understand.

Tip 3: Reformat the introduction as an abstract

- Abstracts in journal articles are typically shorter (100-250 words) and likely formatted differently, but should contain all the key elements to hold the reader's attention.
- Using your introduction and discussion as bases for the abstract can be a good starting point.

Tip 4: Modify the introduction

- Your thesis may have more than one research question or hypothesis, which are not all relevant for your paper. Consider combining research questions or focusing on one for the article.
- Unless otherwise suggested, keep the introduction short and straight to the point.
- Use previously published papers (at least three) from the target journal as examples.

Tip 5: Tighten the methods section

- Keep the method section succinct, there is no need for an extensive discussion about your research approach.
- Use previously published papers (at least three) from the target journal as examples.

Tip 6: Report main findings in results

- Present the findings relevant to the research question(s) in the results section.
- If you conducted exploratory analyses, provide concise statements of the findings.

Tip 7: Ensure discussion is clear and concise

- Begin by providing an interpretation of your results: What is it that we have learned from your research?
- Do not repeat your results in the discussion section:
 1. Situate the findings to the literature.
 2. Discuss how your findings expand our perspective.
 3. Briefly present ways in which future studies can build upon your work and address limitations in your study.

Tip 8: Limit number of references

- Journals limit the number of citations, so make sure:
 1. To choose the most relevant (and recent) citations.
 2. That the citations are formatted correctly.
- Consider using a reference manager system (e.g. Mendeley) to make your life easier.