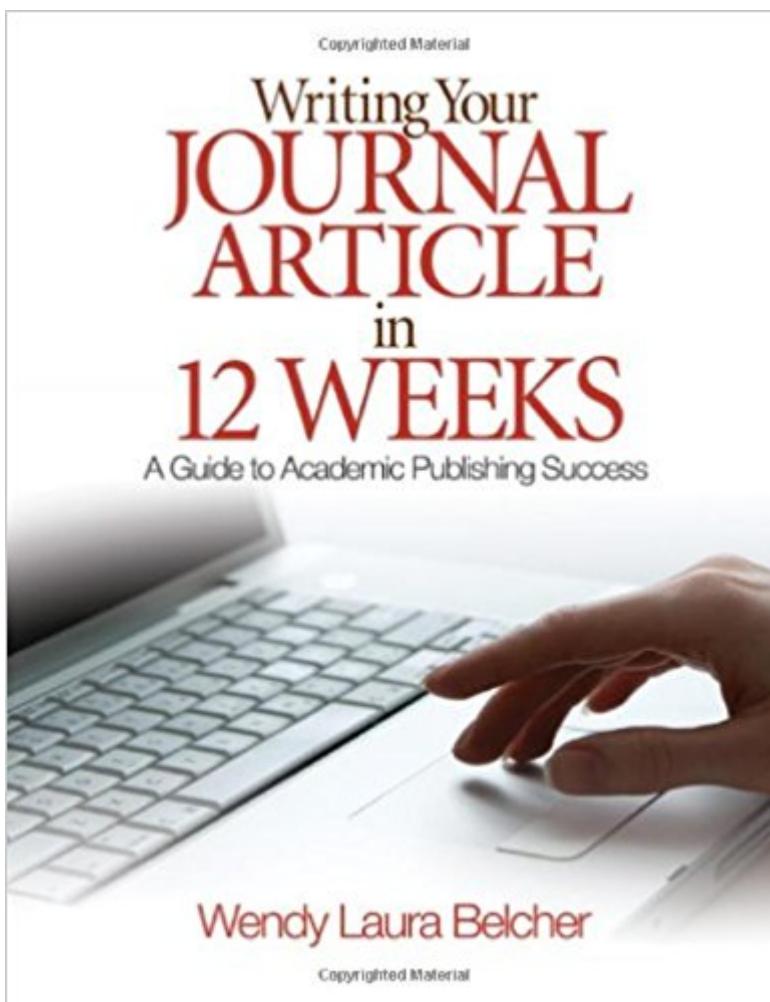


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# Writing Your Journal Article In Twelve Weeks: A Guide To Academic Publishing Success



## Synopsis

"This book is a wonderful addition to a graduate course on professional writing, to a writers' group in need of some structure, or even to the lone writer who needs assistance becoming an academic writer." • Chronicle of Higher Education Wendy Laura Belcher's *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* is a revolutionary approach to enabling academic authors to overcome their anxieties and produce the publications that are essential to succeeding in their fields. Each week, readers learn a particular feature of strong articles and work on revising theirs accordingly. At the end of twelve weeks, they send their article to a journal. This invaluable resource is the only guide that focuses specifically on publishing humanities and social science journal articles.

**Key Features**

- Has a proven record of helping graduate students and professors get published: This workbook, developed over a decade of teaching scholarly writers in a range of disciplines at UCLA and around the world, has already helped hundreds to publish their articles in peer-reviewed journals.
- Demystifies the academic publishing process: This workbook is based on actual research about faculty productivity and peer review, students' writing triumphs and failures, as well as the author's experiences as a journal editor and award-winning author.
- Proceeds step by manageable step: Within the context of clear deadlines, the workbook provides the instruction, exercises, and structure needed to revise a classroom essay, conference paper, dissertation chapter, master's thesis, or unfinished draft into a journal article and send it to a suitable journal.
- Targets the biggest writing challenges: This workbook focuses squarely on the most difficult tasks facing scholarly writers, such as getting motivated, making an argument, and creating a logical whole.

*Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks* can be used individually or in groups, and is particularly appropriate for graduate student professional development courses, junior faculty orientation workshops, post-doc groups, and journal article writing courses.

Wendy Laura Belcher is assistant professor of African literature at Princeton University in the Department of Comparative Literature and Center for African American Studies. She has taught journal article writing workshops in North America, Europe, and Africa.

Praise for Wendy Belcher and *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks*

- "A comprehensive, well-written and beautifully organized book on publishing articles in the humanities and social sciences that will help its readers write forward with a first-rate guide as good company." • Joan Bolker, author of *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day*
- "Humorous, direct, authentic | a seamless weave of experience, anecdote, and research." • Kathleen McHugh, professor and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Women
- "A useful text that will be an excellent resource for any writer attempting to publish their work." • Larry Chandler, Graduate Student

Wendy Belcher's book is revolutionizing the way

younger scholars perceive academic publishing and radically transforming their level of access to it (and consequently to the profession). It is by far the most readable or practical guide to academic writing on the market." •Beth Goodhue, UCLA "Wendy's guidance has been a tremendous help to me, and the book is great for grad students, junior faculty, or anyone who wants to learn how to write and publish more effectively." -Jake Dorman, The University of Kansas "Your book struck such a nerve because there is a long chain of assumptions in academia that scholars should just know how to do certain things. The relief among faculty is palpable when I explain in groups that few of us -- even those who have been published in journals -- were ever taught properly. And although it helps everyone who cracks it, your book is especially a godsend for faculty from other cultures." -Carole Sargent, Georgetown University "Thanks for your wonderful book!" -Georgina Green, Graduate Student "Absolutely LOVE the book!" -Karra Bikson, Graduate Student

## **Book Information**

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"Belcher's book uses an interactive format to help writers develop a manuscript for submission from a pre-existing text such as a dissertation/thesis... When I used this book to teach writing for publication, doctoral students responded enthusiastically to the format and tone, which bolstered their confidence and enabled them to confront displacement activities." --Mary Jane Curry "Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks is the one book I would most recommend to inexperienced academic authors in the humanities or social sciences who seriously wish to see their scholarly work in print. Other books may be quicker to read, but I doubt if any would ultimately prove to be as

effective."--Steven E. Gump (03/15/2010)"While addressing the sometimes-unsearchable field of scholarly writing and publishing, Wendy Belcher uses unpretentious, contemporary, and even witty prose that is simultaneously captivating and informative."--Grant Eckstein (05/03/2010)"Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks is the one book I would most recommend to inexperienced academic authors in the humanities or social sciences who seriously wish to see their scholarly work in print. Other books may be quicker to read, but I doubt if any would ultimately prove to be as effective."--Steven E. Gump (03/15/2010)"Thorough, beautifully organized, and humane. This is a welcome light on a dark process."--Kevin Peterson (12/07/2010)-Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks is the one book I would most recommend to inexperienced academic authors in the humanities or social sciences who seriously wish to see their scholarly work in print. Other books may be quicker to read, but I doubt if any would ultimately prove to be as effective.--Steven E. Gump (03/15/2010)-Thorough, beautifully organized, and humane. This is a welcome light on a dark process.--Kevin Peterson (12/07/2010)-Belcher's book uses an interactive format to help writers develop a manuscript for submission from a pre-existing text such as a dissertation/thesis... When I used this book to teach writing for publication, doctoral students responded enthusiastically to the format and tone, which bolstered their confidence and enabled them to confront displacement activities.--Mary Jane Curry-While addressing the sometimes-unsearchable field of scholarly writing and publishing, Wendy Belcher uses unpretentious, contemporary, and even witty prose that is simultaneously captivating and informative.--Grant Eckstein (05/03/2010)

"Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks is the one book I would most recommend to inexperienced academic authors in the humanities or social sciences who seriously wish to see their scholarly work in print. Other books may be quicker to read, but I doubt if any would ultimately prove to be as effective." (Steven E. Gump 2010-03-15)"Thorough, beautifully organized, and humane. This is a welcome light on a dark process." (Kevin Peterson 2010-12-07)"Belcher's book uses an interactive format to help writers develop a manuscript for submission from a pre-existing text such as a dissertation/thesis... When I used this book to teach writing for publication, doctoral students responded enthusiastically to the format and tone, which bolstered their confidence and enabled them to confront displacement activities." (Mary Jane Curry)"While addressing the sometimes-unsearchable field of scholarly writing and publishing, Wendy Belcher uses unpretentious, contemporary, and even witty prose that is simultaneously captivating and informative." (Grant Eckstein 2010-05-03)

THIS is the book that should be on the shelves of all faculty and in every academic library. I bought it just as I was handing in my dissertation, preparing to move on publishing the 'D' as articles. When hit a brick wall of major revisions on the dissertation, the revisions process outlined in this book gave invaluable information to jump through that last hoop. Now that nightmare is behind me and I'm a Dr - I often go back to it as a reminder and support in the process of getting articles 'out there'. Just got one accepted and another is in press - yay!.

I owe tenure to this book. Return to it with each publication and each revision. Worth owning just for the writing test. Some chapters I use more than others. I wish there was a writing your grant in 12 weeks. Some "weeks" actually take me a long day, others I skip because I already know what journal I have my sights on. Still, a book well worth the money. This book does what the editors do at my scholarly writing workshops, but throughout the year to maintain a sustained publication record.

Clear and focused with excellent examples. Immediately got me writing after an eight month writer's block. A few suggestions, i.e. Physically visiting journal stacks, are becoming outdated. Our library doesn't stock books, so a revision to focus on electronic databases and journals would be more helpful. While not all of the tops were applicable and didn't necessarily work for my style, but this book is well worth it! Talking about what to expect from reviewers, emphasis on peer feedback, and discussing the irrationality of my fears of writing was really fantastic.

Excellent book! Very practical, useful tips grounded in reality and positivity instead of scare tactics like some academics like to use with writing rookies. Helps one focus and parcel tasks out in a sensible way. My complaint is that its just a bit too long - could be more concise. The book should be more easily digested. But I plan to teach classes from it in the future - I highly recommend it!

I wanted to give it 4.5 stars. I purchased the Kindle version first and then the paper version. This has a strong workbook feel that is hard to capture with the Kindle version. That said, the book offers practical and useful actionable steps to writing and getting published. It is not just a cerebral read or one of those "just set time aside each day and you will succeed" books. The steps work you from concept to publication in a way that makes sense. I agree with others that the time frame could be reduced.

Appreciate the detailed steps the workbook outlines. Good use of examples from a range of disciplines. Encouraging tone that motivates writers to persevere. I did struggle with the chapter on grammar/syntax revisions but honestly that's probably because in the e-book it came out as huge chunks of text (without white space) and often employed caps to emphasize. Simply made it hard to read clearly.

Wendy Belcher has produced a gem for any graduate student/doctoral student who wants to submit an article to a journal. This book provides clear and specific strategies and activities to keep motivated. I also appreciate that a major goal of this book is to encourage the writer to set aside 15-60 minutes of writing per day...something I learned earlier in the year and that has done wonders for me. This book is a must-have for any student who is studying to enter the world of academia or for professors who teach writing to graduate students. I highly recommend this book!

This very detailed guide is an excellent resource and presents a very deliberate, no nonsense approach to writing. It lays out a formula for success that, if followed, will help you not only be productive at writing, but will likely impact habits of mind in other areas as well. I recommend it, particularly, for anyone who is in their first year or two of their academic career with the "publish or perish" mandate to address.

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