

Research in Surgery

A Guide to Writing a Letter to the Editor

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Abstract:

A letter to the editor, commonly referred to as "Letter to the Editor" or "Correspondence," is a concise form of communication directed to a journal or its editorial board. These letters typically address topics related to published articles, ongoing discussions, or personal experiences within the field of surgery.^{1,2,4}

Introduction

Letters to the editor typically serve two primary purposes: to support or critique published works, or to provide a unique perspective or insight on a relevant topic. These communications should adhere to a word count ranging from 400 to 600 words and may include up to five citations. As the briefest form of non-research publication, letters to the editor present opportunities to clarify or amend existing literature, as well as to express personal observations or viewpoints.¹⁻³

Writing Structure

When writing a letter to the editor, it is crucial to adopt a clear structure that aligns with the letter's intended purpose.

Clarity of Message: The purpose of the letter should be immediately clear. Authors must be thoroughly familiar with the journal's formatting and style guidelines.

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**Some publications use the term Correspondence.*

Opening Paragraph: The letter should begin with the title of the article in question, followed by a concise summary of its primary arguments or findings.

Subsequent Sections: The author should clearly express their agreement or disagreement with the article. It is essential to support this position with relevant evidence, citing appropriate literature as necessary. The letter should conclude with a reflective statement that summarizes the main points.^{1,2}

Independent Perspective: In this format, the letter is written independently by a reader and may address topics relevant to the journal's focus. Such correspondence, frequently informed by the author's personal experiences, can significantly enhance the collective understanding of current issues and inspire new avenues for research.

References:

1. <http://Journal.rums.ac.ir>
2. <http://www.sid.ir>
3. <http://www.sciencepeak.com>
4. <http://www.dfsr.ir>