



UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA  
*The National University of Malaysia*

# **WACANA**

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### ***Fourteen 'T'ips For Q1 Publication***

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## Fourteen 'T'ips for Q1 publication

**P**ublishing a paper in Quartile 1 (Q1) of World of Science Indexed (WOS) journal is a daunting task. In order to publish in Q1 journals, the authors need to compete not only on the novelty of the frontier knowledge, but also on the research contributions, robustness of the methodology, and its implications to the practitioners. In sum, publishing an article in the Q1 journal is a fusion of many functions of research. Q1 journal requires an in depth understanding of the subject being discussed and how it may impact the readers holistically. Furthermore, Q1 articles is not only covering the philosophy paradigm but also how it can be conveyed scientifically.

For the majority of the academics, publishing in Q1 is regarded as one of the indicators of an elites' status. However, according to the pyramid's status, not many are lucky to be welcomed in the league. This is evidenced through the article acceptance rate for Q1 journal way far low in relative to other journals. The rules for the Q1 are simple; only the best paper is selected to be published in the journal by the Editors in keeping their prestige. This stigma has led the academics to vent out their articles to other than Q1 journals, merely in meeting their key performance indicators

(KPI). When academics being burdened with the KPI that are currently focusing on the quantity rather than quality, Q1 has been left out from the possible output especially when there are not many success stories from their colleague. Without doubt, by the large number of articles journal published may result to an improvement in university ranks, however, the credibility of a researcher should not be neglected. An academics should join the Q1 league, as an evidence of the expertise in the field. Therefore, this article aims to debunk the stigma of Q1 articles by introducing the 13 T-tips.

**Trust is a must!** Every successful people should trust on what he is doing. Writing a Q1 article is not exempted. The author should trust on what he write. The author should trust on how and when the research is ripe. The author should trust on how the article can provide valuable information that the readers can ride. Thus, in all, it is a top list for the author to in publishing in Q1.

**Tell a story.** By trusting on the article written, the story is easier to tell. In fact, the story belongs to the author from the beginning of the research has been done. It is not difficult, especially telling people a story that the author have a depth understanding in it. What can be tricky, which parts of the story is needed to be told. Star Wars can end up with 11 movies since 1978, and almost all of it is a blockbuster. Which similar should be expected from the **thoroughness** of Q1 journal's article. The bottom line are: the story should be logic, timely, impactful, made in details without flaws in it.

**Tight!** The author has all the story under the sun on the subject matter. But putting up a story on an average of 8000 words of article is difficult and tricky. The discussion should be concise, precise, and has its own purpose. The discussion without value can be considered to be removed from the article. Every single sentences should have their own purpose. As a result from a tight argument along the article, lesser rooms are available for disagreement between the reviewer and the author. Which provide a solid piece of work that save everybody time along the publication processes.

**Tortoise** won the race with rabbit even though the rabbit has a better capability. This is one of the most popular story that being told around the world. The morale of the story; is never give up. Slow and steady win the race. Likewise, writing a Q1 journal is a slow process, but it is only on the beginning. Keep on doing, the author will get used to it.

Similar to joining on any other club, being part of the Q1 authors, there are some of the practice and etiquette that are needed to be followed. Know how to write is no longer sufficient, but knowing the **technique** on how to write like the Q1 authors has become necessity. This is skills that need to be developed. There process will be long, but the short cut is by **transforming** the published Q1 article into own article. Learning by doing is what it takes. Understand the paper that inspiring the author in and out can do the trick, for example on what and why the sentences and information is written. Like mentioned earlier, each sentences and information carry its on

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weight, thus transformation will settle the major part of the article writing - story line. In a nutshell, the article transformation is kind of plug and play for the author creating in depth understanding the reasonings and philosophical spirit on every words put on the article.

**Teamwork** is equally important. Findings a strategic co-author may give some advantages. The existence of relatively experienced and Q1 proven co-author would impact the articles in many ways. First, the author may have more confident on the article, where it is pre-reviewed before the submission. Second, the co-author is the one who curb the author from frustration, giving up, and even stress. Third, current trends on the multidisciplinary and multi country is so much needed where addressing on the article's global stretch. It is not a rocket science, when the article is written by authors from different countries, the context should reflects beyond borders and the argument on its generalizabilty is mitigated.

The review process of Q1 journal is critical. In some extend, the review may **turn** the authors apart. Some of the comments are seems harsh for the authors who are sitting on the research and the article write-up for many years. On the positive note, the comments can be one of the point of **trajectory** for the betterment of the article. Especially for the paper that has been rejected, for another opportunity in the alternative journal (make sure the alternative is a Q1 as well, since the article has a merit).

**Tolerate** with the reviewer's comment. Remember, the reviewers usually have a valid

point of argument. They might identified some elements on the author blind spots! Consider the time spent by the reviewer, where commonly done due to the responsibility to knowledge rather than monetary inclined. From the comment, **tuck** in the paper as per suggestion. Highlight where the adjustment has been made. Make sure that the reviewer has easier job especially when the revision is submmited. Address the review comments politely and try to find some rendezvous point on the disagreement. The reviewer is a human too, how the corresponding author reply and address the comments indirectly shows the nature of the author's research group. In dealing with the editors and reviewers, **tips** can be beneficial. Give them some snapshot information (not limited to) on the researcher's diversity, research's novelty, theoretical contributions, and practical implications. Commonly this should be strategised at the beginning of the submission or resubmission, i.e., the cover letter.

The last but not least, **try** again and again. Never give up. Keep the momentum and consistency. The will be silver lining after the rain.



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## PERKONGSIAN PENERBITAN Q1

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