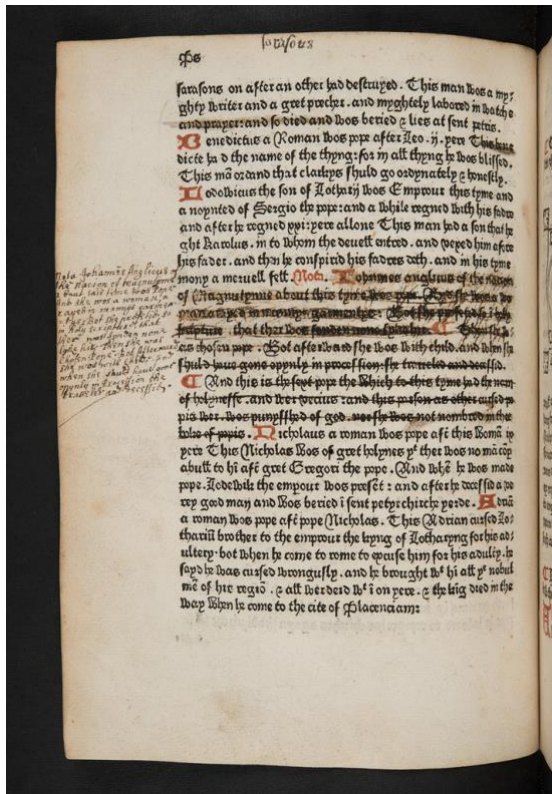


Editing an Essay/Dissertation for Publication in an Academic Journal



So, you're interested in writing for Slovo? Fantastic, we're really looking forward to reading your work! Slovo is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal, run and written by students. And we're open access - this means your work is likely to be read more widely and more rapidly than via traditional publishing avenues.

We accept articles on any area of research, as long as it is relevant to the SSEES region (that is, Central and Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union). In addition to our research articles, we also accept book and film reviews on releases from the last few years, translations, poetry, artwork... But today, we're just focusing on academic articles.

We are aware that writing for a journal can be an intimidating prospect for many people, so we have created this guide to help you through the steps.

Before you submit

The idea of writing a research article for an academic audience on any relevant topic you're interested in can feel a bit overwhelming. But don't lose hope! Most of our submissions are based on work that people have already done for their studies. However, before

you just upload your module essay, there are a few things you need to consider.

1. Audience

Who are you writing for? When you wrote your dissertation/essay, you were probably only expecting it to be read by your supervisor and markers who really know your topic. Your research article is for a much broader audience. Assume they are interested and knowledgeable, but also possibly not specialists.



2. Wider context

Situate your topic within the wider scholarly context and identify gaps in the literature. Be clear about how your article addresses these gaps and contributes to the field. It's easy to find yourself summarising what has already been said. Make sure that you define any terms you use that are debated in your field and show where you stand.

3. Argument

One of the most common bits of feedback we give is that the article didn't have a clear enough argument. It shouldn't just be a description of the situation. You have an incredible in-depth knowledge of the context of your topic. But what matters most to your reader is that we understand your *why*. Think about your topic as a whole and identify your research question and conclusions. What will you be proving? Now make sure every paragraph is answering that question.

4. Structure

Make sure you signpost your article with chapters or sections so that the reader is given a clear path to follow. That's not to say these parts are stand-alone - make sure that they link to form a cohesive narrative. Your introduction introduces what you're

researching, why it matters, and how you're going to do it. Your conclusion summarises your findings (and the significance these) and can identify areas for further research. It's the last chance to impress your reader, so check it thoroughly!

5. Word count

Submissions for Slovo should be 6000-8000 words, including references. If you're under this, it may show that you're not managing to make your argument successfully. But equally, if you're over, that may mean that you are trying to cover too much.

6. Referencing

Consistency is key! Make sure you adhere to the [MHRA style guide](#) and the Simplified [Library of Congress System of Transliteration](#).

7. Well-sourced

Make sure you're not leaving out obvious sources (as the peer reviewer will pick up on this) but don't spread yourself too thinly. Zoom in on carefully selected resources and situate them within the wider picture.

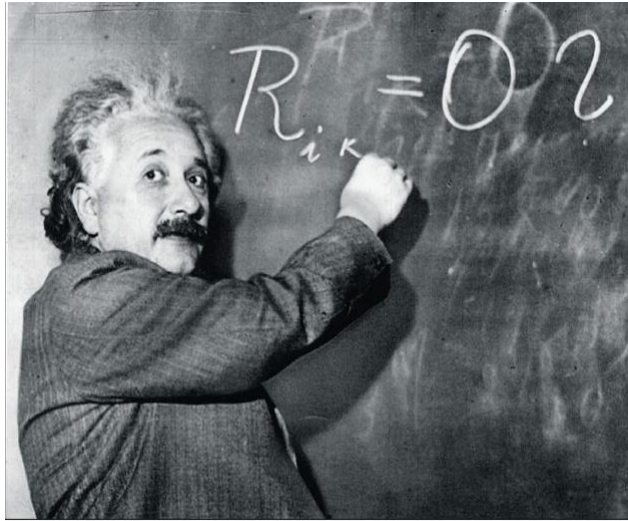


8. Clarity

Is it easy to read? Does the reader know what you will be doing? And would this be understandable and interesting to someone outside of your specific remit but within the larger field of study of the SSEES region?

9. Write an abstract

You need a short (200 word) abstract explaining what your article will do. This is how readers know if they want to read your article and what to expect from it. If you are unsure, have a look at the website and read the abstracts of previous articles.



10. Figures, graphs, tables...

Make sure that you have permission to reproduce images, graphs, and tables and provide us with evidence of this. Don't overuse them though - ask yourself whether they facilitate your argument and/or make your point clearer.

11. Proofread

We know it feels obvious, but you'd be surprised how many people leave errors in their title or abstract. Check that you have removed all references to your studies, dissertation, essay! It's an article now.

12. Keep it anonymous

Remove all elements that could identify you. The peer-review is 'double blind', which means that the reviewers don't know who you are and you don't know who the reviewer is. This is to ensure that all feedback is fair and that it will not impact your relationships in the future.

13. Submit by the deadline!

If you want some ideas on how this works, have a look at our [previously published articles](#).

We're here to help!

Still have a burning question? Feel free to message us on Twitter or fill out a form on our [website](#). UCL students can also get support from the [Writing Lab](#). They offer tutorials, workshops, writing retreats and much more. They also have a 10-Step Guide to publishing in academic journals available on their moodle page.

Want to know more?

Take a look at our [other guides](#) to find out how our process works, and why you might want to write for us.