



TIPS FOR AUTHORS

What is a “Topic of Interest”?

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The Topics of Interest section of the *Journal of Prosthodontics* offers readers and writers the opportunity to read about and discuss a broad range of subjects relating to the discipline. Exactly what is a “topic of interest”? One type of topic could be described as an opinion piece. If you are a prosthodontist, and a particular issue or subject related to the discipline interests you, chances are good your colleagues will also be interested. Your topic might be a discussion of your perspective on a current issue relevant to the discipline: for example, the relationship of prosthodontics to the other specialties and to general dental practice, or how to better inform the general public about the role of the prosthodontist. In other words, your topic could be a kind of editorial on a subject that you feel strongly about and that is related to the discipline.

Topics submissions need not be limited to opinion pieces. Although clinical or basic science research articles should be submitted to those sections of the journal, *historical* research on the discipline is an appropriate subject for the Topics section. Recent interesting Topics of Interest articles by Edgar N. Starcke and Robert L. Engelmeier have documented the historical development of technologies associated with the discipline of prosthodontics. Other topics of interest in past issues have discussed practice management concerns and opinion surveys of the prosthodontic community.

Whatever your topic, as you write about it, make sure your exposition is clear and well organized. Include an *unstructured* abstract of 250 words. The body of the essay can be organized to suit your subject—in other words, there is no standard organizational format as there is for basic science research or clinical research articles. Begin with one or two introductory paragraphs that orient your reader to the subject. Present your “argument” or discussion or description clearly and logically. Bring your discussion to a conclusion that sums up your presentation. Consider using subheadings to help orient the reader to your discussion.

As in any writing, try to use active verbs rather than forms of *to be*—e.g., “prosthodontists seek . . .,” rather than “prosthodontists are . . .” As you revise your first draft, “listen” to your voice as you speak to your readers. Is your discussion of the topic clear, well organized, convincing?

The Topics of Interest section provides the prosthodontic community with a useful forum for discussion of a broad range of subjects—colleagues communicating with colleagues, an important activity in any profession.

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