

## ANATOMY OF WRITING FOR PUBLICATION FOR NURSES, 3RD ED. 2017 – CYNTHIA SAVER

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Anatomy of Writing for Publication for Nurses, Third Edition, is described by the author as a comprehensive yet practical guide to professional healthcare writing for nurses. The book's goal is to demystify the writing process for those who need to bridge the gap from sentence structure to a published manuscript. The author assures readers that all nurses can learn to write effectively and enjoy the process.

No matter what the nature of your writing project, or how well you currently write, this book, designed for and written by nurses, will teach you skills that improve your final product.

Cynthia Saver, MS, RN, lead author and editor of Anatomy of Writing for Publication for Nurses, Third Edition, has 40 years of nursing experience and has been writing, editing and publishing for decades. Her range of health care writing encapsulates research reports, case studies, clinical articles, and continuing education programs.

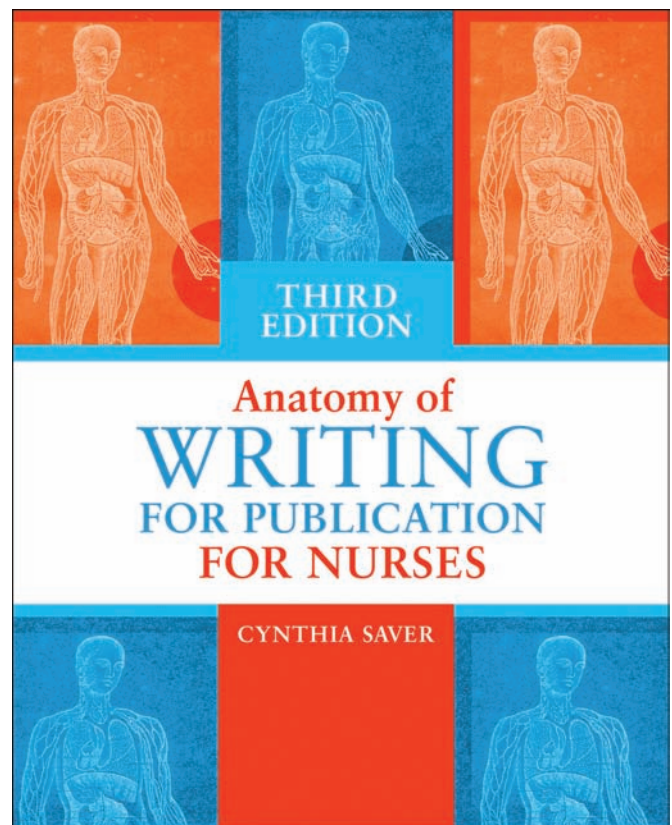
For this 3rd Edition, there are 25 published nurses who author chapters that discuss new trends in publication. The book is divided into two discrete areas. The first focuses on all aspects of writing for publication and includes current publishing trends such as open access and interdisciplinary publishing.

The second section focuses on writing different types of articles such as quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research, clinical and opinion articles. It also discusses the peer review of articles. The book also provides direction on writing for consumers, contributing text-book chapters, creating personal narratives, and developing continuing educational material, among others.

The book provides a straightforward understanding of the aspects of writing using an anatomy metaphor that is very relatable for nurses. The Brain generates the ideas or topic for the article. The heart dictates the flow of the writing, moving the reader seamlessly through the content to the conclusion. Skeletal structure outlines the topic and segments into beginning, middle and end. Intestines, of course, represent the guts of the article including nutrients, like data and information, and providing

food-for-thought. The kidneys filter and refine, a process like editing, where all non-essentials are removed.

The text is visually interesting as each chapter's author(s) include relevant tables, highlighted boxes, and diagrams that appeal to the visual learner. A Confidence Booster box appears at



This book contains something for every nurse whether novice or expert, blogger or researcher.

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intervals and encourages nurses to celebrate writing and all the incremental steps they have accomplished. A Write Now! Box concludes each chapter and provides opportunities for nurses to write. After the first chapter, for instance, the author asks the reader to write a list of benefits that could come from writing an article and to create a written action plan.

Saver ensures that, despite the large quantity of contributors, topics flow with a logical progression and that the tone of each chapter is upbeat and easy to follow.

Chapters 1 – 8 provide sequential information on preparing to write. The first few chapters focus on finding: finding an appropriate topic, finding and choosing where to publish, and finding and documenting sources. From there the authors take the reader through the process of effective organization and writing, using graphics to enhance and clarify the manuscript, and navigating the submission/revision stage.

In the remainder of the book, nurses find chapters that review specific types of writing such as abstracts, clinical articles, research articles, quality improvement and evidence-based practice reports. It also includes how to write up peer reviews and create education programs.

Some of my favourite chapters dealt with unique, current topics that encourage nurses to view their work as meaningful and sharable with the nursing community. Lorraine Steefel, for instance, who is known for her publications and mentoring work with nursing students, discusses how to transition a presentation or a school paper into a manuscript for publication. She likens this process to pruning a full-grown bush, ridding it of unnecessary branches, and reshaping it into a thing of beauty. The reader can utilize the simple tables and writing tips to help guide their transition from presentation, academic paper, or culminating capstone project, into a publishable manuscript. This is invaluable for nursing students or

those considering writing for the first time.

Another author, Nancy Brent, tackles the nitty gritty of ethico-legal considerations for writers. She explains copyright issues, permissions, and citations in detail. Plagiarism, the stealing of literary work, is described in detail including the academic and legal ramifications. This is particularly applicable to nursing students and novice writers who need to carefully reference another's works, or obtain permission when required, so as not to commit fraud or academic misconduct that can impact their professional life.

Ditommassi and Smith encourage nurses to tell stories in their section titled Writing the Nursing Narrative. I found this chapter enlightening due to popular acceptance of qualitative research in nursing and the acknowledgement of subjective evidence. Interviewing and using research participants accounts of their lived experiences in healthcare introduces the affective: emotions and feelings and voice: the ability to express oneself and be heard, as credible research data sources. This is helping make “visible that which is often invisible – what nurses do.” (p.343)

This book contains something for every nurse whether novice or expert, blogger or researcher. The editor and authors offer a wealth of combined knowledge and insight in to the art and science of writing. Each chapter explores the designated topic with relevant material, sufficient resources, and up to date references that encourage the reader to investigate further. The authors, and their guidance, reassure readers that writing is a skill much like other that nurses can learn, and perfect, with practice.

Anatomy of Writing for Publication for Nurses 3rd ed. is the one book that, in my opinion, covers it all. If you are interested in writing for personal reasons, or for professional development, you may hone your skills by routinely referring to contents written by nurses for nurses.