

# Write LIFE: START WRITING WITHOUT A RESEARCH PROJECT

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Scholarly publication is crucial for promotion in academic medicine, yet only 15% of authors are family physicians.<sup>1</sup> Faculty development efforts should highlight accessible publication pathways for novice writers<sup>2</sup> as well as the benefits of authorship.<sup>3,4</sup> This infographic provides entry points for new faculty to start writing, even before project completion, and with minimal preparation. Writing LIFE helps you contribute to the medical literature.



## Letters to the Editor

Brief (400-500 words) appraisals of a recently-published article that offer a new perspective on the content. They're written in active voice and without ambiguity. Letter authors offer new insights not addressed in the article and suggest avenues for further research that could broaden understanding of the topic.



## Infographics

*Family Medicine* publishes **Family Medicine Focus** graphics, which are 500-word infographics with accessible information for career development, work-life balance, and other educational topics. *Academic Medicine* publishes infographics as **AM Last Page** to promote general understanding of important issues that affect medical schools and teaching hospitals.

## Family Physicians Inquiries Network (FPIN)

Novice authors can write brief, structured, evidence-based literature reviews that answer a clinical question with FPIN. FPIN authors are members of the network, and new authors learn evidence-based practices in a curriculum developed by FPIN. More information is available at [Fpin.org](http://Fpin.org).



## Essays

These 1,000-1,500 word narratives are compelling accounts that convey passion and emotion, offering a deep, personal connection with the author. Often drawn from experiences in patient care, these stories are written in the first person and should relate to family medicine education or practice. These essays are published in *Family Medicine*, *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, and *Annals of Family Medicine*.



As authors advance in their careers, they can also enhance their publication efforts through brief reports<sup>5</sup> and medical education curricula.<sup>6,7</sup> These LIFE steps lead to more substantial projects and establish a culture of scholarship, strengthening our collective impact on health care and education.

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