

---

## Writing case reports for a bioethics journal: Simplified

Sir,

The Saudi Journal of Anesthesia have introduced ladder and checklist for researchers by conducting workshop on *how to write a paper* and published special supplement to enhance writing skills to make a complete manuscript suitable for publication.<sup>[1,2]</sup> The academicians in anesthetic practice may face ethical challenges and may be familiar with the presentation of a write-up as a case summary in a bioethics journal. This letter address the simplified lessons I learned after attending a workshop on writing case reports in *Asian Bioethics Review* in connection with 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Bioethics of the International Association of Bioethics and 7<sup>th</sup> National Bioethics Conference of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics at Bengaluru.<sup>[3]</sup> Tool A (analyzing facts and values), Tool B (balancing intuitions and principles), and Tool C (comparing cases) constitute ABC tool box where difficult ethical decisions in clinical practice is solved through systematic approach.<sup>[4]</sup> Another approach for writing up case is *the difficult case approach* by identifying the specific ethical question to address, develop arguments regarding a particular case, comparing and contrasting arguments, and

discuss the relevant contextual factors that are associated with the case.<sup>[4]</sup> Another approach for writing up a case in a bioethical journal is through *the four topics approach* which include medical indications, patient preferences, quality of life, and contextual features.<sup>[5]</sup> Research scholar in anesthetic practice may use above methods in writing a case summary and he should be well versed with the textual practices suitable for a bioethics journal.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**THORAKKAL SHAMIM**

Department of Dentistry, Government Taluk Head Quarters  
Hospital, Malappuram, Kerala, India


### Address for correspondence:

Dr. Thorakkal Shamim,  
Shangrila, Parappanangadi - 676 303, Kerala, India.  
E-mail: shamu3duad@gmail.com

## References

1. Eldawlatly AA. Writing paper: Ladder and checklist. *Saudi J Anesth* 2016;10:1-3.
2. Eldawlatly AA. Special issue on “how to write a scientific paper”. *Saudi J Anaesth* 2019;13(Suppl 1):1.
3. Workshop on writing case reports in Asian Bioethics review on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in connection with 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Bioethics of the International Association of Bioethics and 7<sup>th</sup> National Bioethics Conference of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics at Bengaluru. 2018. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.2253136878050453&type=1&l=800bd9e7fc>. [Last cited on 2019 Mar 06].
4. Dunn M. Teaching and learning using difficult clinical cases: An ethics ‘toolbox’ for clinicians and educators. 2014. Available from: [http://bioethics.med.cuhk.edu.hk/assets/files/userupload/SW\\_MichaelDunn.pdf](http://bioethics.med.cuhk.edu.hk/assets/files/userupload/SW_MichaelDunn.pdf). [Last cited on 2019 March 06].
5. Schumann JH, Alfandre D. Clinical ethical decision making: the four topics approach. *Semin Med Pract* 2008;11:36-42.
6. Brian H. Textual practices in crafting bioethics cases. *J Bioeth Inq* 2012;9:395-401.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

| Access this article online  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Website:</b><br><a href="http://www.saudija.org">www.saudija.org</a> | <b>Quick Response Code</b><br> |
| <b>DOI:</b><br>10.4103/sja.SJA_161_19                                   |   |

**How to cite this article:** Shamim T. Writing case reports for a bioethics journal: Simplified. *Saudi J Anaesth* 2019;13:393-4.  
 © 2019 Saudi Journal of Anesthesia | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow