



The Journal of Applied Christian Leadership (JACL) seeks to engage Christian leadership professionals in a forward-looking dialogue about how to practice servant leadership in the light of ongoing research taking place across a variety of denominational, cultural, and disciplinary environments.

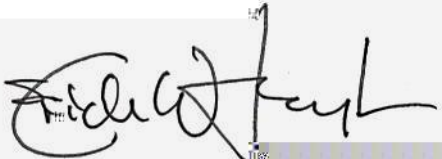
Thus writing an article for the JACL is more than putting onto paper a stream of ideas as they come to a person. It is more than a set of observations or descriptions or prescriptions. Before the manuscript is ever accepted for the review process the editor pre-reads the manuscript to determine if the article matches the focus of the journal and has potential to be published. There is also a concern about the quality of the article. Here is what the editor looks for:

- This central theme should be clearly stated early in the article.
- All the key terms should be defined.
- The scope of the article should be defined.
- Do not use your article to simply introduce the reader to the subject. Assume (n)-(d)-(5)(n)-(5)-(6) th

- Reference your sources carefully. APA style requires in-text references with a corresponding reference list in the end.
  - Quotes need page numbers of the original sources.
  - Use APA style in documenting your sources and in presenting the bibliography.
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- Be as specific as you can in drawing conclusions. Avoid broad sweeping generalizations that mean nothing in particular. For example, don't appeal to a general term such as "Christian character." If you use the term, give examples of the character qualities you have in mind.
  - Note questions that may remain unanswered. Rarely does an article deal with a topic that can be completely or definitively answered within the eight to fifteen pages generally allowed. If you can do so, the problem is probably too trivial. Rather choose a significant question delimited enough to deal with adequately within the limits, discuss it and then note questions that remain.
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- While all articles have to be research or theory –based they need to communicate to the leaders and practitioners not familiar with the language of statistics or technical research.
  - Avoid technical jargon. Explain all technical terms carefully and illustrate them if appropriate.
  - Test your writing on a friend that is not familiar with your professional expertise or denominational in-language. If s/he looks puzzled as you read it out to him or her you may have to say it in more common language.

Before submitting your article to the editor, take a look also at the [Guidelines for Authors](#) on the JACL website and review the [criteria](#) for the evaluation of manuscripts.

God bless you in your ministry of writing for Christian leaders.



Erich W. Baumgartner, Editor

<http://www.andrews.edu/services/jacl/>