Guide for Writing an Article

Length: LSSR articles are maximum 2,000 words. Please be aware of this as you write your article, as articles that exceed this limit will be returned to authors for editing.

Audience: LSSR readers are typically well versed in basic improvement approaches; hence, only a brief definition of the tools/methods used is needed, supported by a reference (see “References” section below). However, if the concepts/tools/methods that are the subject of this article are not widely known, please describe them in detail and include appropriate references to support these descriptions.

Organization: The following provides guidance regarding how to structure an article for LSSR.

- Introduction (brief background information and description of the practical significance of the subject of the article – what the article is about? and why should others read it?)
  - The purpose of the article (i.e., what the article is about?) should be discussed clearly early in the article, as part of the initial paragraph, which does not need to be titled “Introduction.”
- Background (further contextual information to support the reader’s understanding of the subject of the article)
  - This section is optional, as not all articles need a separate section for contextual information. An article may flow more smoothly by including this type of information as part of the Introduction section, providing it does not become too long.
  - As needed, this section should have useful/meaningful headings/sub-headings to inform the reader about the content included in this section.
- Body (main points, content, examples, etc. from which the readers can learn)
  - This section of the article is typically the longest.
  - It may include a brief introduction to provide a preview/outline of the content presented.
  - Content should be broken up into logical groups and described under useful/meaningful headings/sub-headings to help guide the reader through this section.
    - Case study articles: Sub-headings may be the phases/steps in the methodology/approach used (i.e., PDC/SA, DMAIC, etc.).
    - Conceptual articles: Headings/sub-headings may illustrate the:
      - Methodology/approach – describe the proposed/existing methodology/approach that is the subject of your article and consider including one of more of the following:
        - Explanatory figure (optional) – provide a diagram (i.e., flowchart, etc.) to illustrate the proposed/existing methodology/approach discussed.
        - Descriptive comparison (optional) – compare and contrast the new/proposed method/approach with traditional/existing approaches (note: this could be denoted in an explanatory figure in addition to the written description).
      - Example – describe an example (preferably from the real-world) to demonstrate the use of the proposed/existing methodology/approach that is the subject of your article.
• Conclusion (brief summary of the work presented and discussion regarding the implications of the subject of your article for Lean and/or Six Sigma practitioners, lessons learned, etc.)

Figures: Please use figures/tables to meaningfully demonstrate your use of the concepts/tools/methods discussed in your article. Figures/tables must be referred to and described in your article. Simply stating “See Figure 1” is not enough.

References: Please use references (i.e., other journal articles and/or books) to support factual statements throughout your article (in “(Author, Date)” format). Please include a complete list of the references cited in the paper at the end.


To further align your article with the scope and format of LSSR, please read several articles published in recent issues of LSSR.