

Writing a Scientific Paper

Hints and Tips



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Key Points



- **Clear message** (In the beginning of the manuscript not in the end! It is not a crime novel)
- **Be Consistent** (notation, terminology,...)
- **Wording / Appearance** (respect the venue and the reviewers)
- **Deliver the innovative points in the sexiest way possible** (be enthusiastic about your findings)
- **Backup everything** (either by your research or cite legit articles unless it's common sense) & bear in mind that **no one cares about your opinion** (Don't use adjectives without any scientific backup)
- **Carefully & Bulletproof generalize** (refer to broader audience, go from the general to the specific or from the abstract to the concrete)
- **Be Honest about your findings**

Steps



- **Define your Topic and Pick a Venue** (journal, conference, ...)
- **Gather information / Evaluate sources / Cite**
- **First draft**
- **Final Manuscript** (Title / Abstract / Intro / Method / Results /
Disruption / Limitations / Conclusions)

Define your Topic and Pick a Venue



- **Topic** (something that interests you, scan the literature)
- **Venue** (get familiar with the venue and make sure your work is compatible)
- **Know your audience** (Imagine accurately what your audience (reader) needs to know and what effect your writing will have on your reader)

Gather information / Evaluate sources / Cite



- **Define the objective** (this will help you focus on information pertaining to your topic)
- **Be flexible to amend your initial idea** (according to what you will discover in the relevant studies)
- **Mark relevant works that help you backup each one of your claims**
- **Double check that all your references are credible**
- **Cite all the important relevant works** (especially the ones published in the venue you are submitting)

First draft



- With reference to your outline, begin writing spontaneously your thoughts and ideas in an organized manner. Keep in mind the old formula:
 1. statement of purpose: tell the reader what you're going to say
 2. main body of the paper: say it
 3. summary and conclusion: tell the reader what you've said
- Don't worry about wording just write or draw
- Stick to the point (Major idea and develop it through examples and explanations and back it up through other works)
- Generalize (Concrete examples, illustrations, and factual details to back up your points)
- Show that you know the field! (Criticize, evaluate, illustrate, highlight gaps, attack, or defend where appropriate to your topic)

Final Manuscript



- Approach your draft paper as if it were unfamiliar to you
- **Wording / Grammar** (use the field's terminology (this puts you in the game as a player who knows the area) and check a Thesaurus as well)
- **Paragraphs structure:**
 - i. first sentence is a statement of the topic (general)
 - ii. the next is a restriction of the topic (more focused)
 - iii. the restriction is supported by illustrations (specifics)
- **Revise and Polish**
- **Follow the venue's format**

Thank you for your attention

