

How to write a Scientific Paper

The scientific format has a rigid structure. The article text follows the IMRaD format (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion).

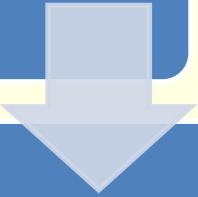


Strategy for Writing

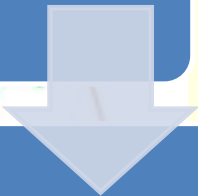
Organizing your manuscript

When you organize your manuscript, the first thing to consider is that the order of sections will be very different than the order of items on your checklist.


1.. Write the Methods – clearly explain how you carried out your study




2. Write the Results - decide a logical order that tells a well-defined story, easy to read and understand. Remember: you are presenting your results, do not refer to others' citing References in this section.



3. Write the Discussion - here you must respond the question. "What the results mean?"



4. Write an eventual Conclusion - provide a clear and strong scientific rationale for your research. If appropriate, you can here suggest future experiments / researches.



5. Write a compelling Introduction - convince readers (and Reviewers, and Editors) that your research is useful, and introduce some previous publications on which you based your work.

6. Write the Abstract – keep in mind that this section convinces, or not, researchers to read and cite your article: be concise, descriptive yet interesting.

7. Identify a descriptive but concise Title – it is your first opportunity to attract readers and remember the first readers are Editors and Referees

8. Select Keywords for indexing – avoid words already present in the Title, and ones with a too broad meaning.

9. Write the Acknowledgement - include, for example, technical help and assistance in writing, university projects, language revision, grants, funding agency, etc.

10. Write up the References - cite all the scientific publications on which your work is based.

Preparation of Figures and Tables

- Remember that the visual tools of your paper are the first visible and the most efficient way to present your results.
- No illustrations should duplicate the information described elsewhere in the manuscript and remember that the legends have to be self-explanatory.
- Never include long boring tables or unappealing figures (e.g., chemical compositions of suspension systems or lists of species and abundances). You can include them as supplementary material.
- Unless unavoidable, instead of modifying/adapting previously published materials, consider that originality and creativeness in preparing tables and figures is regarded as an added value.
- Be conscious that presentation consistency is key; before submitting, check once more.

Remember to consult the publisher's Guide for Authors, also for the References list and citations format, and for the requested set-up, resolution, etc. for illustrations.