

# HOW TO WRITE AN INTRODUCTION?

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# OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

- To know the basic structure for writing an introduction and the importance of each item
- To understand the importance of attracting the attention of readers/ audience/journal editors
- What to do and what not to do ?

# THE SECTIONS OF THE PAPER

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- Title,
- Authors and Affiliation,
- Abstract,
- Introduction,
- Methods,
- Results,
- Discussion,
- Acknowledgments, and
- References,

The sections appear in a journal style paper in the following prescribed order:

<b>Experimental process</b>	<b>Section of Paper</b>
What did I/We do in a nutshell?	<u>Abstract</u>
What is the problem?	<u>Introduction</u>
How did I/We solve the problem?	<u>Materials and Methods</u>
What did I/We find out?	<u>Results</u>
What does it mean?	<u>Discussion</u>
Who helped me/us out?	<u>Acknowledgments</u> (optional)
Whose work did I/We refer to?	<u>References</u>
Extra Information	<u>Appendices</u> (optional)

# *IN A SCIENTIFIC FORMAT..*

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- It is a means of efficiently communicating scientific findings to the broad community of scientists in a uniform manner.
- This format allows the paper to be read at different levels.

# WHY BOTHER WRITING A GOOD INTRODUCTION?

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- The opening paragraph of your paper will provide your readers with their initial impressions of your argument, your writing style, and the overall quality of your work
- Your introduction is an important road map for the rest of your paper
- Ideally, your introduction should make your readers want to read your paper

# WHAT SHOULD AN INTRODUCTION DO?

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## 3 main things:

- Get your readers' attention and interest
- Identify the specific topic of the report/  
manuscript
- Conceptualize your arguments

# INTRODUCTION

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## Function:

- It establish the context of the work being reported. This is accomplished by discussing the relevant primary research literature (with citations) and summarizing our current understanding of the problem you are investigating;
- State the purpose of the work in the form of the hypothesis, question, or problem you investigated; and,
- Briefly explain your rationale and approach and, whenever possible, the possible outcomes your study can reveal.



## The Introduction must answer the questions

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- *"What were we studying?"*
- *Why was it an important question?"*
- *What did we know about it before I did this study?"*
- *How will this study advance our knowledge?"*

# SKELETON OF AN INTRODUCTION

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- Background
  - Importance of the topic
  - Global, regional and local data (magnitude)
  - Build up a convincing argument
- Objectives
- Hypothesis
- Rational

## Structure:

- The structure of the Introduction can be thought of as an **inverted triangle** - the broadest part at the top representing the most general information and focusing down to the specific problem you studied.
- Organize the information to present the more general aspects of the topic early in the Introduction, then narrow toward the more specific topical information that provides context, finally arriving at your statement of purpose and rationale.

- A good way to get on track is to sketch out the Introduction **backwards**; start with the specific purpose and then decide what is the scientific context in which you are asking the question (s) your study addresses.
- Once the scientific context is decided, then you'll have a good sense of what level and type of general information with which the Introduction should begin.



# HERE IS THE INFORMATION SHOULD FLOW IN YOUR INTRODUCTION:

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- Begin your Introduction by clearly identifying the subject area of interest.
- Establish the *context* by providing a brief and balanced review of the pertinent published literature that is available on the subject.

- What literature should you look for in your review of what we know about the problem?
- Be sure to clearly state the purpose and /or hypothesis that you investigated.
- Provide a clear statement of the rationale for your approach to the problem studied.



Make sure that you are aware of earlier studies :

- Published
- Unpublished
- Currently underway (thesis, synopsis)
- Help from librarians
- Personal contacts with people who are experts in the subject

- Convince your readers of the importance of the question you are answering
- Do not repeat material, which is in all the textbooks
- Giving prevalence figures, data on hospital admissions and the cost to the nation related to the problem may be appropriate
- State the gaps in the literature on the topic you are covering and how you have tried to fill this gap by performing the present study?





- Don't confuse your audience
- Avoid introducing, without explanation, material that is completely unfamiliar to the reader or audience
- Avoid abbreviations as far as possible



# HOW TO EVALUATE YOUR INTRODUCTION DRAFT

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- Ask a friend to read it and then tell you what he or she expects the paper will discuss
- If your friend is able to predict the rest of your paper accurately, you probably have a good introduction

# CONCLUSION

While writing introduction-

- Keep in mind your readers/audience
- Keep it short
- Tell readers why you have done the study
- Explain why it is important
- Convince them, using data from previous studies; the advantage or an upper edge of your study to what has been done before
- In the last paragraph of introduction provide the objectives of the research

**Thank  
You**

