

How to write a scientific paper
(*summary of article by Robert Day*)

Name the title and abstract after you have finished the paper

1. Title: as few as possible words while adequately describing the content of the paper
2. Abstract
 - a) state the principal objectives and scope of the investigation
 - b) describe the methodology employed
 - c) summarize the results
 - d) state the principal conclusion
 - e) do not exceed 250 words
 - f) make the abstract and title the last things you do in the paper
3. Introduction
 - a) nature and scope of problem investigated
 - b) brief review of pertinent literature to orient the reader
 - c) define any jargon in the introduction
4. Methods/Approach: state method of investigation, materials used, approach, scope
5. Results: Keep results short and sweet
6. Discussion
 - a) try to present the principles, relationships, and generalizations shown by the results
 - b) point out exceptions or lack of correlation and define unsettled points
 - c) show how results agree or contrast with previous published results
 - d) discuss theoretical implications as well as practical applications
 - e) state conclusions clearly as possible
 - f) summarize your evidence for each conclusion
7. Acknowledgments
 - a) acknowledge any significant help you received
 - b) acknowledge any funding or other resources which supported the work
8. Literature cited: double check the references when proofreading, before submission, and again during the galley proof stage.