



Research Writing

Ten Steps to Writing an Effective Introduction

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The purpose of the Introduction is to stimulate **the reader's interest and to provide necessary background** information to understand the rest of the paper.

You must summarize **the problem to be addressed**, give **background on the subject**, discuss **previous research on the topic**, and explain **exactly what the paper will address, why, and how**.

An Introduction is usually **300 to 500 words**, but may be more, depending on the journal and the topic. Therefore, the Introduction needs to be **very concise, well structured, and inclusive of all the information** needed to follow the development of your findings.

Below are ten steps to follow in developing an effective Introduction. However, it is important to be aware of the specific guidelines of the targeted journal, as there may be some differences.

1. Begin the Introduction by providing a concise background account of the problem studied.
2. State the objective of the investigation. **Your research objective** is the most important part of the introduction.
3. Establish the significance of your work: **Why was there a need to conduct the study?**
4. Introduce the reader to the pertinent literature. Do not give a full history of the topic. **Only quote previous work having direct bearing on the present problem.**

5. Clearly state your hypothesis, the variables investigated, and concisely summarize the methods used.
6. Define any abbreviations or specialized terms.
7. Provide a concise discussion of the results and findings of other studies so the reader understands the big picture.
8. Describe some of the major findings presented in your manuscript and explain how they contribute to the larger field of research.
9. State the principal conclusions derived from your results.
10. Identify any questions left unanswered and any new questions generated by your study.

Other points to consider when writing your Introduction:

1. Be aware of who will be reading your manuscript and make sure the Introduction is directed to that **audience**.
2. **Move from general to specific**: from the problem in the real world to the literature to your research.
3. **Write in the present tense** except for what you did or found, which should be in the past tense.
4. **Be concise**.



Thank you...