How to write a valuable paper

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What to do before you start writing a paper?
STEP I: Looking back on your research

1. Have you done something new and interesting?
   • Have you checked the latest results in the field?
   • Is the work directly related to a current hot topic?
2. Do your findings tell a nice story or is the story incomplete?
3. Have you provided solutions to any difficult problems?
STEP I: “Big obstacles” for your research

1. Have you done something *new and interesting*?
   - Have you checked the latest results in the field?
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2. Do your findings tell a *nice story* or is the story incomplete?

3. Have you provided *solutions* to any difficult problems?
STEP I:
“Big obstacles” for your research

Start to write NOW.
STEP II:
Thinking over your goals

1. What type of manuscript?
2. Who is your audience?
3. Which journal?
STEP II: Thinking over your goals

1. What type of manuscript?
   - Is it sufficient for a full article?
   - Ask your supervisor and colleagues for advice on manuscript type.

2. Who is your audience?

3. Which journal?
STEP II: Thinking over your goals

1. What type of manuscript?
2. Who is your audience?
   • Do you want to reach specialists, multidisciplinary researchers, or a general audience?
   • Journals, even in similar subjects, reach readers with different backgrounds.
3. Which journal?
STEP II: Thinking over your goals

1. What type of manuscript?
2. Who is your audience?
3. Which journal?
   - Aims and scope
   - Types of articles
   - Readership
   - Current hot topics
The JGO's aim is to publish the highest quality manuscripts dedicated to the advancement of care of the patients with gynecologic cancer.

It is an international peer-reviewed periodical journal that is published bimonthly (January, March, May, July, September, and November).

The journal publishes

- Editorials
- Original and review articles
- Correspondence
- Book review
How to write a paper?
Article structure

1. Title
2. Authors
3. Abstract
4. Keywords
5. Main text (IMRaD)
   - Introduction
   - Methods
   - Results and
   - Discussion/Conclusions
6. Acknowledgements, References, Supplementary materials
Write in a different order

1. Methods
2. Results
3. Discussion and Conclusion
4. Introduction
5. Abstract
6. Title
Tips for Methods

Divided into several specific parts

1. Begin writing the Methods while you are performing your experiments.

2. Start with general information that applies to the entire manuscript and then move on to specific experimental details.

3. Match the order in which methods are described to the order of the results that were generated using those methods.

4. Always include citations for procedures that have been described previously.

5. Avoid discussing the pros and cons of certain methods or results of any kind.
## Tips for Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO</th>
<th>DON’T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Use figures and tables to summarize data</td>
<td>• Duplicate data among tables, figures and text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Show the results of statistical analysis</td>
<td>• Use graphics to illustrate data that can easily be summarized with text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use subheading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Confirm that the method is reliable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Define the limitations of the methods</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Graphics

Figures and tables are the most effective way to present results.

• The figures and tables are understandable without the need to read the entire manuscript.
• Captions should not contain extensive experimental details that can be found in the Methods section.
• The data represented should be easy to interpret.
• Color should only be used when necessary.
Graphics

- Poorly defined legend
- Too much data
- No trend lines

- Clear legend
- Organized data
- Trend lines
Tips for Discussion

What your results mean

1. DO NOT reiterate the results.
2. DO NOT make “grand statements” that are not supported by the methods or the results.
3. Speculations should be rooted in fact, rather than imagination.
4. DO NOT introduce of new terms not mentioned previously in your paper.
5. Compare the published results with your own. BUT DO NOT ignore work in disagreement with yours.
Tips for Conclusions

Better to avoid:

1. Downplaying negative results
2. Making statements based on personal opinion without scientific support
3. Repeating other sections
4. Over-emphasizing the impact of your study
Tips for Introduction

What is the problem you are trying to solve

1. **Be brief.** Try NOT TO make this section into a history lesson.

2. Editors DO NOT like too many citations to references irrelevant to the work, or inappropriate judgments on your own achievements.

3. DO NOT ignore contradictory studies or work by competitors

4. **DO NOT mix** introduction with results, discussion and conclusion or your data.

5. Expressions such as “novel”, “first time”, “first ever”, “paradigm-changing”
Abstract

• Check which type fits the journal
• The quality of an abstract will strongly influence the editor’s decision.
• A good abstract
  • Precise and honest
  • Can stand alone
  • Brief and specific
  • No technical jargon
  • Minimizes the use of abbreviations
  • No references
• Use the abstract to “sell” your article.
Title

A good title should contain the fewest possible words that adequately describe the contents of a paper.

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<tr>
<td>• Conveys main findings of research</td>
<td>• Use unnecessary jargon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be specific</td>
<td>• Use uncommon abbreviations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be concise</td>
<td>• Use ambiguous terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be complete</td>
<td>• Use unnecessary detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attractive to readers</td>
<td>• Focus on part of the content only</td>
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</table>
Publishers do want quality

- Good writing possesses the following three “C”s:
  - Clarity
  - Conciseness
  - Correctness (accuracy)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Originality</td>
<td>• Duplications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Significant advances in field</td>
<td>• Reports of no scientific interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Appropriate methods, case studies and conclusions</td>
<td>• Work out of date</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Readability</td>
<td>• Inappropriate/incomplete methods or conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Studies that meet ethical standards</td>
<td>• Studies with insufficient data</td>
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