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How to Write and Publish a Research Paper

For the summary of web page called “101 Tips from JournalPrep.com”, I decided to create a list of the most important bullet points included in this article. The important points follow below:

* Make sure you know what investigators in your field and other fields have published about your topic (or similar topics).
* Get help. Rookie mistakes are commonplace in academic research and lead to wasted time and resources.
* Use an external peer review service (available through JournalPrep.com) to get your manuscript reviewed prior to submission. Rapid and expert peer reviews, before you submit, may significantly increase your odds of getting your manuscript accepted for publication.
* Critique your own work.
* Be thorough and patient with several rounds of editing of your work.
* Be Consistent to the end.
* Avoid long sentences
* Select a simple title.
* Your paper should advance a particular line of research. It does not need to answer every remaining question about the topic.
* Show friends and colleagues your work, including those in different fields of research. Get as much feedback as you can before you submit.
* The body of the paper supports the central idea and must show a thoughtful, comprehensive study of the research topic; it should be clearly written and easy to follow. It generally includes three main parts: 1) Methodology, 2) Results & Data Analysis, and 3) Discussion.
* When referencing other papers, do not simply reference work in the same way other papers have. If paper X says that paper Y showed a specific result, check for yourself to ensure that this is true before saying the same thing in your own manuscript. The number of reputable authors who misunderstand their colleagues’ findings is shocking.
* Throughout your introduction use the past tense. One exception to this is when you are speaking about generally accepted facts and figures.
* Avoid using new acronyms. They will simply confuse the readers.
* ***The introduction of a research paper*** is extremely important. It generally presents a brief literature review, the problem and the purpose of your research work. It should be powerful, simple, realistic, and logical to entice the reader to read the full paper.
* Do not over-explain common scientific procedures.
* Use third person passive tense.
* ***Your Results section*** should make sure your graphs and tables can speak for themselves. A lot of people skim over academic papers.
* Clear to read graphs are essential. Do not overload graphs with data.
* ***Your discussion section*** should answer WHY you obtained the observed results. Do not simply restate the results. Also address WHY your results are important (i.e. how do they advance the understanding of the topic).
* Highlight how your research contributes to the current knowledge in the field and mention the next steps or what remains.
* Make sure that your discussion is concise and informative. If you ramble and include a great deal of unnecessary information, your paper will likely get rejected or at least be looked upon less favorably.
* ***The importance of the conclusions section*** should not be overlooked. It includes a brief restatement of the other parts of the research paper, such as the methodology, data analysis and results, and concludes the overall discussion. It should be brief, concise, and worth remembering.
* Use bibliographic software such as EndNote or RefWorks. This will help you format your ***references section.***
* ***In your abstract***, limit the amount of background information you provide. Try to give only what is necessary in a couple of sentences or less.
* When writing an abstract, always use the past tense since you are giving a summary of what was done.
* Feel free to hook readers with a “big picture” statement to open the abstract.