

Scientific Paper Step 5: Final Draft

Step 5 is polishing and refining your nearly submittable draft.

In this step, you will:

- clean up your text to your quality standard
- finalize your citations for completeness
- perform other improvements you may have self-identified in the previous step such as having a more interesting discussion section, fine tuning figures, etc.
- double-check for correctness

Step 5 usually takes less time than Step 4 (ideally, less than one week). If it takes longer than that, you may need to consider if you are overpolishing.

At the end, you will have finished all 5 steps and have a ready-to-submit paper!

More information: <https://github.com/computron/scientific-paper-flow>

* Indicates required question

1.

Email *

Tips for Step 5

Many people actually enjoy this Step 5 because you already have a good paper, and now it's just about making a good paper great. Furthermore, most of the adjustments from Step 4 should be optional so the worst-case scenario is to use your nearly submittable draft from the previous step and simply make it submittable.

- One main tip - do not get stuck! Some researchers get stuck in this final step of the process. They don't know when to stop polishing or can't help keep polishing and re-polishing the same paper. This goes for text, for figure quality, and also for results. It's important to know when to stop. At some point, it's better both for yourself **and** for the research community at large if you stop polishing and start working on something else.

2.

Please complete the following checklist for your final draft.

Remember to check the boxes below the list!

* **All the numbers in the manuscript are correct.** Many researchers double-check their text and wording multiple times before paper submission, but don't specifically and separately check just all the numbers in their text. Many errors in "final" manuscripts can be identified simply by having a separate check for the numbers without paying attention to any of the text!

* **All important prior works and research groups are cited.** You should give credit to prior works where it's due and give readers a broad perspective of the field and various approaches. Also note that, fair or not, having a complete reference list can be the difference between a referee supporting your work and discouraging its publication.

* **The abstract and conclusion contain all the "Very Important Numbers".** For example, in a materials science study, these sections summarize how many materials were studied, the specific numerical values of any outstanding property measurements and their conditions, or the number of candidates recommended for further study.

* **The figures/tables and captions alone tell the story of the paper in the correct order.** A reader should understand what your paper is about and its major conclusions from the figure and figure captions alone. Many readers in fact skip reading text altogether and mainly skim figures and captions along with the abstract/conclusion.

* **The acknowledgements are complete.** This includes funding sources, computing resources, people that helped, and any software you found helpful.

*

Check all that apply.

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The acknowledgements are complete

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3.

Please upload the final version of your paper.

Include the supporting information document if one exists.

Files submitted: