

Making Your Article Interesting to Read

Write in paragraphs, not long blocks of text [12]. Every paragraph should have a topic sentence, supporting sentences that build on that key message, and a summary sentence. Vary the length of your paragraphs to make your article easier to read. Think about the transition from one paragraph to the next. Is there a logical progression?

Write clear, simple sentences in the form of noun-verb-object. Varying sentence length can make an article more engaging. Compound sentences add variety and are useful for comparing ideas [12]. Every word in a sentence should contribute something; eliminate unnecessary words.

Avoid the passive voice, in which the subject is acted upon. In the active voice, the subject performs the action. "It was hypothesized," is passive; "We hypothesized," is active. The active voice is more interesting and less ambiguous. Edit passive sentences to active sentences as much as possible.

Write in the first person ("I," "we") to make it clear who has done the work and the writing. It is particularly helpful when you are comparing your work to someone else's work [3].

The abstract and the methods section will be written in the past tense, because they describe work that you have already done. The Introduction and Discussion section are usually written in the present tense, because they describe knowledge that currently exists.