

Writing A Science Paper

Introduction, Results, Discussion

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Outline

Introduction

Results

Discussion

- Restate results

- Describe importance to theory

- Compare to a few other similar studies

- Offer caveats

- Conclude with future steps

Discussion

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1. Rehash the main results very briefly
2. Give the big theory and what your results have added
3. Compare to prior literature
4. Mention caveats: your results are not perfect
5. Conclude with suggestions for future steps

Discussion 1

1 Rehash the main results very briefly

- ▶ Start with most important etc.
- ▶ Do not just repeat Introduction and Results (they are already crystal clear)
- ▶ Do not add new results in the Discussion (if in Discussion, it must be in Results and Methods)

Discussion 2

- 2 Give the big theory and what your results have added
 - ▶ Should follow first paragraph of introduction
 - ▶ Incorporate your own prior work if it relates
 - ▶ Avoid conclusions unrelated to your results

Discussion 3

3 Compare to prior literature

- ▶ Include a few studies comparable to your results
- ▶ Do NOT attempt a full literature review

Discussion 4

4 Mention caveats

- ▶ Acknowledge potential problems
- ▶ Head off reviewers' criticisms

Discussion 5

5 Conclude with suggestions for future steps

Suggest what more is needed to move forward
(even if you have no intention of doing them yourself)

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