

# Writing A Science Paper

## Introduction, Results, Discussion

Richard Condit

- Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Chinese Institute of Botany

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# Outline

## Introduction

Ideal is three paragraphs (2-4)

Last paragraph states hypotheses (questions) to test (answered)

First paragraph states importance of hypotheses to test

Avoid: literature review

Avoid: questions not appearing in the paper

## Results

Address hypotheses as stated in introduction in the same order

Always start with main result

Omit methods

Avoid numbers in text (use tables)

## Discussion

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- ▶ Impeccable logic leads reader from theory to questions



# Introduction

For a first draft, strive for an Introduction in three paragraphs.

For practice, draft an Introduction in two paragraphs.

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(succinctly pose the questions you will answer)
- ▶ Do not use subheadings in the Introduction
- ▶ Avoid jargon
- ▶ Never use abbreviations – it's jargon!  
(except standard units: m, ha, km, C etc.)

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The topic sentence of each paragraph of the Results should offer a clear and important result

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- ▶ Avoid jargon and abbreviations unless defined in a Methods table

# Assignment

Write a two-paragraph introduction following the formula I gave on a topic of your choosing. Do not look up literature, but quote literature you know. No citation needed.

# Discussion

(Separate presentation sciencediscussion.pdf)