

The Scientific Bureau of the University of Catania

**Write better
scientific
papers**

Overview



Write better scientific papers

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You are writing a scientific article for a well-known international journal that will be read by like-minded researchers, professors, and scientists; it is not an Agatha Christie novel!

If you have read the guide/notes for authors that all journals provide, you will have seen that you need to be clear, logical and concise. Explaining your work in the best way possible for it to be understood by the widest range of readers. Repetition, copy and paste in numerous sections is not what is needed: paraphrase, say it in a different way.

Be clear, be clear, be clear. Less is more. Keep to the point. Just detailed information, not waffle.

Do not write anything that you do not know, really know, is correct. Check all scientific words and phrases, then check them again. Do a spell check. Get someone else to read the paper.

The following are words that look and sound good, but add nothing to your paper: do not use them!

Alarmingly

Astonishingly

Certainly

Generally

Importantly

Interestingly

Naturally

Notably

Noteworthy

Obviously

Remarkably

Strikingly

Surprisingly

State the facts clearly, give data, the reader will be able to understand if it is interesting or not. Make comparisons, show changes over time (provide data), make the reader “surprised”, do not tell him to be “surprised”.

Remember the “tone” of a scientific paper should tend to the formal, not informal or jargon. Choose your words carefully.

Consistency

- One of the biggest problems with scientific writing is consistency. You are a researcher, a scientist, and when you write badly and inconsistently you give the impression that your research could be inconsistent, haphazard, not carried out correctly.
- Sentences have to be correctly written and make sense.
- Correct paragraphing: one sentence is not a paragraph, group your sentences into logical units. Maybe you are confused about your research and this shows in your writing.
- Spaces before, after and between words and punctuation: check and check again.
- Consistency: if you write a word in one way, always write it in that way: COVID-19, Covid-19, Covid19, COVID19, Covid 19, COVID 19.
- Check all scientific words or phrases for current spelling and hyphenation: you should be the person who knows this.
- Typing errors: do not make typing errors (typos). Check and check again, then get someone else to check.