

ON WRITING THE MANUSCRIPT

A manuscript that is important enough to write deserves thoughtful preparation. You should evaluate the content and organization of the manuscript just as you evaluated the investigation itself. The following questions may help you assess the quality of your manuscript.

1. Is the *introduction* clear and complete?
2. Are the *purpose and rationale* of the paper clearly identified?
3. Is the *literature* available adequately reviewed?
4. Are the *citations* appropriate and complete?
5. Are the *conclusions* clearly stated and well supported?
6. Is the *discussion* thorough? Does it stick to the point and confine itself to what can be concluded from the significant findings of the research reviewed?
7. Is the paper *concise*? (Make a paper just perfect and then cut twenty percent)
8. Are the ideas presented in an *orderly* manner (continuity and transition)?

Scientific prose need not be wordy or obscure. Its aim is clear and logical communication.

In addition, a good manuscript

1. defines and clarifies the topic or question to be investigated;
2. summarizes previous investigations in order to inform the reader of the state of current research;
3. identifies relations, contradictions, gaps, and inconsistencies in the literature;
and
4. suggests possible next steps in solving the problems involved.