The **Introduction** of a paper sets the tone or background of why this study, review, or commentary is important. Even the most experienced writer, at times, fail to provide a well-written Introduction such that the reviewer may become disinterested or cynical about the manuscript—then, YOUR PAPER IS DEAD ON ARRIVAL and has no chance for acceptance!

The primary purpose of the Introduction is the following:

- Why the topic of the paper is important
- What is known and not known about the topic or aspects of the topic
- What you are going to do help clarify, support, refute, or add new information relative to the topic of the paper.

The essential information that should be in the Introduction is:

- State concisely the current state of knowledge (what is known) about the topic or issue from your literature review or previous studies. Do not make this lengthy—usually 2 or 3 paragraphs are more than enough (additional information can be provided in the Discussion section).
- Comment on what is not known about the topic or issue and how you are going to help fill the knowledge gap through your study or review.
- For a research study, provide a theoretical framework or conceptual basis for your hypothesis. You need to communicate a rationale or justification why you are approaching this problem by the method you describe (e.g., randomized trial, retrospective observation, case control, etc.)
- Indicate clearly your hypothesis, objectives, and questions to be answered
- Avoid hypothesis or objectives that are intuitively obvious (e.g., to study why older adults die more than younger adults). Alternatively, avoid studies that appear to be counterintuitive to most observations or clinical experiences unless you have strong supporting evidence (e.g., why overweight people can run faster than thin people).


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