

My Name:

A Scientific Paper

Step One: Research and writing a draft of your introduction

WHAT IS AN INTRODUCTION?

A good introduction should ask the question **Why is this study of scientific interest and what is your objective?**

This section discusses the results and conclusions of previously published studies, to help explain why the current study is of scientific interest.

- **The Introduction is organized to move from general information to specific information**
- **The last sentences of the introduction should be a statement of objectives and a statement of hypotheses.** This will be a good transition to the next section, Methods, in which you will explain how you proceeded to meet your objectives and test your hypotheses. For example, you might write the following: "Our objective was to determine if the relationship between legumes and nitrogen-fixing bacteria is species-specific. We hypothesized that legumes would grow best when infected by the same *Rhizobium* species that it occurs with in the field."
- **You will need to cite your sources in your introduction section.** It is important to cite sources in the introduction section of your paper as evidence of the claims you are making. There are ways of citing sources in the text so that the reader can find the full reference in the literature cited section at the end of the paper, yet the flow of the reading is not badly interrupted.

LET'S GET STARTED!

Introductions start with the most general information possible.

1. As a general rule, always start by describing the organisms studied. The species that I will be experimenting on are:

Common Name: _____

Scientific Name: _____

MLA Citation for #1:

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2. What is the reason for using this organism in your study (there are many reasons)? Cite the EVIDENCE for your reasons.

Reason #1:

Evidence #1:

Reason #2:

Evidence #2:

MLA Citations for #2:

3. What is the reason for studying how bees respond to predators?

Reason:

Evidence:

MLA Citations for #3:

4. What do you think would be other important background information to include:

Write a research question here

e.g. Do bees communicate with the hive about dangers? If so, how?

Notes on your first research question:

MLA Citation for #5:

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