

# Publish or Perish

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# The Structure of a Paper

- Title
- Authors
- Abstract, Keywords
- Introduction
- Related Work
- Sections of the Main Body
- Experimental Results
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Appendices

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# Title and Abstract

- Title is a catch phrase.
- Title is the most visible part of the paper.
- Title attracts the first attention of potential readers.
- Title typically refers to one or two of the aspects: problem, method, solution, and application.
- Abstract is a skeleton of the paper.
- Abstract is not the Introduction. Keep it short.
- Some smart people reproduce the result after reading a well-written abstract, sometimes producing a better result.

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# Introduction

- Background of the problem
- Motivation of the work
- Brief survey of previous work
- Basic idea of the current work
- Brief outline of the solution
- Summary of the main contribution
- Reviewers pretty much decide whether to accept the paper after reading the Introduction.

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# Related Work

- An overview of related previous results
- Categorize the previous work into a few representative groups of related results/approaches
- Concentrate on those closely related to the current work
- While describing important previous results, do
  - Highlight the difference between yours and others
  - Explain the novelty of your approach
  - Emphasize the relative advantage of your solution

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# Sections of the Main Body

- Preliminaries
  - Notations, terminologies, definitions
  - Short tutorial on some background material
- Description of algorithms
- Pseudo Codes
- Correctness proofs
- Implementation details
- Explanatory examples

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# Experimental Results

- Computing environments
- Test data
- Timing results
- Space requirements
- Figures, tables, ...

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# Conclusions

- Brief summary of the paper
- Claim the usefulness and novelty of your result based on concrete experimental results
- Suggest the direction of future research
  - Don't give too much.
  - It shouldn't be too trivial.



# Acknowledgements, References, and Appendices

- Thank reviewers, sponsors, benefactors.
- Don't miss references to the work of potential reviewers, associate editors, committee members.
- Put tedious proofs and boring technical details to Appendices.

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# Additional Information

- Dr. John Woodwark's homepage:  
<http://www.johnwoodwark.com>
- John Woodwark,  
`How to Run a Paper Mill,' 1992,  
Information Geometers Ltd.  
Available as a PDF file from the above homepage.