

Introduction

Opening Words

Peter L. Munk MD, CM, FRCPC, FSI
 Professor of Radiology & Orthopedic Surgery
 Director, Musculoskeletal Radiology
 Department of Radiology
 Vancouver General Hospital
 University of British Columbia
 Editor in Chief
 Canadian Association of Radiologists Journal

 a place of mind
 THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  

General Paper Outline

- **IMRAD**
 - Introduction (Why?)
 - Materials & Methods (Who, What, When, Where, How)
 - Results (What was found?)
 - **And**
 - Discussion (What does it mean?)

The Introduction

- At the beginning of the text of most papers (check instructions to authors for Journal being submitted to)
- Follows abstract
- Stimulates reader interest
- Provides background & states objective of the paper

Introduction Structure

- Introduce the topic
- Give a synopsis of background information
- Tell the reader the purpose of your paper

Introduction Background

- *Brief* summary of what has been done / what is known
- Selected limited *references* to particularly important work *only*

Not an extensive or exhaustive review
 Tailored to the expected audience – may need to be more basic for a general vs specialized readership

Introduction Purpose

- Summarize purpose of the article as it relates to the previous work
- How did the idea or hypothesis come about?
- How will this be different from what has appeared before?

"Sell" the Paper

- Remember to gain the readers attention
- Make it sound engaging enough to read the paper

*.... This paper is cool, interesting and relevant.....
Read on!.....*

Three Paragraph Rule

- What is the problem that requires clarification?
- Why is this important?
- How do you propose to shed light on it?

¶ ONE

- Concept / Problem / Disease-Condition
- Its impact and / or significance
- Uncertainty and / or controversy that exists surrounding this

The Reason

¶ TWO

- Literature synopsis
- Was a key question answered?
- Do questions remain?
- Is the literature conflicting / unclear / limited?

The Gap

¶ THREE

- The purpose of the current study is
- End with the hypothesis where appropriate

The Purpose

Three Paragraph Rule

- Provides guideline to writing vast majority of introductions
- Sticking to this rule keep things short, focused.....

Mistakes

- Long and / or unfocused
- Overly critical of the work of others
- Insufficient reference to previous work
- Objectives vague or omitted
- Inclusion of data or conclusions
- Immodest claims about your own work