

Paper Writing Checklist

- In your Abstract, have you nailed the **complication** bit? Is the complication in the situation/complication/proposal framework [1]) sufficiently specific (focused, concise, and not overly general)?
- Does the **Abstract and Introduction** clearly state THE main surprising finding? Do they actually say what the big surprising thing is?
- Does the **Introduction** end with bullet points summarizing the contributions and referencing the sections where you made those contributions? Are section numbers consecutive and at the same level (e.g., Section 3, Section 4, Section 5)? Not “Section 3, then skip to Section 7, then back to Section 2” like you are building a time machine.
 - *Example from [2]:* This paper makes three main contributions:
 - A new trust propagation model using a graph-based semi-supervised learning scheme (Section 3).
 - Evaluation of our model’s accuracy on a large real-world web of trust (Section 4).
 - Robustness analysis against simulated uncooperative users (Section 5).
- Is the **Results** section structured around key takeaways rather than a disconnected list of results? Group them. Tell a story.
- Do your **figures** have self-contained captions? Are they readable in sequence (from 1 to say 4), providing a clear summary of your paper (without having anybody reading your paper)?
- Does the beginning of the **Discussion** section reflect on the results:
 - (a) Which results match previous findings in the literature?
 - (b) Which results differ from previous findings, and why?
- Is there a section titled “**AUTHOR POSITIONALITY STATEMENT**”? Yeah, that trendy thing. Do it.
- Is there a section titled “**Ethical Considerations**”? No one wants to read your paper and find out later it’s evil.
- Have you avoided overusing **bold** and *italics* for emphasis (here I’m overdoing it. In a research paper, it doesn’t look right)? It’s not a ransom note.
- Have you avoided using subsection numbering when a section contains only one subsection? Don’t do 3.1 if there’s no 3.2.
- Have you fixed the usual typos with a quick “search all”?

- Replace e.g. with (e.g.,) or ,e.g.,
- Replace i.e. with (i.e.,) or ,i.e.,
- Replace vs. with *vs.*

References

- [1] Daniele Quercia. The Importance of Good Writing in Research (and CEO-level memos). 2024.
- [2] Daniele Quercia, Stephen Hailes, and Licia Capra. Lightweight Distributed Trust Propagation. In *ICDM 2007*.