

The Introduction Section

Prototype (General structure – Three Paragraphs)

1. General paragraph: Draw in readers (e.g. highlight a clinical issue that is inadequately understood), bring readers to the same level, key definitions/explanations, any nuance to contextualize the current study – such as key associations
2. Hone in on specific study subject (holes in literature, identify controversy)
3. Spell out aims and hypothesis, should justify why the current study's approach will add useful data – need to sell the study design

Goals:

- Concise
- Bring readers to the level necessary to understand the study
- Define the problem
- State what you expect to find

Avoid:

- Too much overview of general topic
- Too little also bad (e.g. assume that readers understand everything that experts do)
- Neglecting to introduce a second major aim that is highlighted in the rest of the article
- Creative writing not well placed here (true for entire manuscript)
- Don't waste your word limit here (methods and results are the key elements of a paper)
- Hypothesis that does not make clinical sense
- Misplacing details necessary to understand study (inappropriately placed in other sections, should be in introduction)