

Questions to Answer before writing a scientific paper:

1. Who is my audience?

Based on my audience, what terms/concepts need to be explicitly defined?

Based on my audience, what experimental procedures/apparatus need to be explicitly explained?

2. What have we accomplished in this work (state as succinctly as possible)?

3. Why is this accomplishment important to the audience?

4. How does this experiment and/or result compare to others?

What are the limitations of other experiments/techniques?

5. Was this the generally expected result? Why/why not?

6. Is there a simple model that explains the presented results?

7. What are the real world applications of this accomplishment?

8. What still needs to be done (long term perspective and future work)?

Now, take these thoughts and outline the paper. Also, make a list of the figures that would illustrate/compliment the outlined text. Take length and formatting requirements into consideration while outlining the manuscript.