them. After all, a weakness in your paper might later inspire another research question, so be very clear about your assumptions early on.

Knowing how to write an introduction is yet another part of the process of writing a research paper. You are trying to predict what impact your research will have and the reader needs to be encouraged to read the rest of your work.

The introduction does not have a strict word limit, unlike the abstract, but it should be as concise as possible. It can be a tricky part of the paper to write, so many scientists and researchers spend a lot of time working on their introductions. You should set out your basic principles before embarking upon the experiment:

1. Define the Problem
2. Organization
3. Keep it Short
4. Make it Interesting
5. Use Accurate Language
6. Accuracy and Reliability

For example, a paper about evolutionary adaptations need not go into too much detail about the history of evolutionary thought. Most readers will have a working knowledge of the major milestones in evolutionary theory. In the introduction, you are attempting to inform the reader about the rationale behind the research, revealing whether it is novel or a continuation of previous experiments. You should assume that your paper is aimed at someone with a good working knowledge of the topic. You should also highlight any assumptions that you make about conditions during the experiment and structure your introduction in a similar way.

For example, if you were performing educational research, you may assume that all students are from a very similar socio-economic background, with randomization of the participants being completed at the beginning of the school day. As you write the paper, you may find that it goes in a slightly different direction than you planned. In this case, go with the flow, but make sure that you adjust the introduction accordingly. Some people work entirely from an outline and then write the introduction. This section can then flow into how you are going to fill the gap, laying out your objectives and hypotheses in detail. You should also highlight any assumptions that you make about conditions during the experiment and set out your basic principles before embarking upon the experiment.

There are a few tips that can help you write a strong introduction, arouse interest and encourage the reader to read the rest of your work.

The introduction is the place to highlight any weaknesses in the experiment from the start.

For a longer research paper, where you use an outline, it can be useful to structure your introduction around the outline. Here are a few outline examples:

1.1M reads