

# 7 Steps For Writing Your Paper .

1. In academic papers, or any kind of paper do not use personal pronouns such as “I”, “me”, “we”, etc. and do not address the reader as “you” or “your”. Academic papers are written in an objective style. Use of these pronouns is considered too personal in style and gives a sense of personal bias in your writing.

2. On rare occasions, you may need to mention yourself. But, instead of saying, “I found that most reality shows were not ‘real’ anyway”, you say “This author found that most reality shows....”

3. Avoid rhetorical questions. A rhetorical question is “a figure of speech in the form of a question posed for its persuasive effect without the expectation of a reply.” (Wikipedia article). In other words, you ask a question then answer it for the reader. For example, “Doesn’t censorship obstruct people’s right to free expression?”.

4. Try to include some opposite opinions, or different perspectives. It gives your paper a sense of objectivity, and you get to rebut those arguments.

5. Your paragraphs should not be a long narrative with one cited source at the end of each paragraph. Your paper is a discussion of ideas and those should be included in your paragraph, which means some cited sources should occur within your paragraph.

6. Your paper should not be several paragraphs without a cited source, then one paragraph with one or several sources cited. Your paper is a discussion of ideas and those should be included in your paragraphs, which means some cited sources should occur within your paragraphs.

7. Your conclusion should have some substance. A quick sentence or two is not sufficient. Provide (1) a brief summary of ideas discussed and (2) an analysis of how you reached your conclusion, and (3) final synthesizing of the main idea or point you wanted to make with your paper.