TIPS FOR WRITING A TITLE AND THESIS STATEMENT

**Title** (A good title draws the reader in, suggests the topic and possible thesis). List 3-5 words that describe your topic, then use these words to describe your research content.

**Develop a thesis:**

With any paper as well as a poster presentation you need to develop an argument. Think about how your topic is important, or unusual. You need to set up a position. You will present evidence to support your perspective.

Your thesis should include three parts: What, How, and Why.

**1) WHAT is your objective?**

 (What will you argue, describe, critique, compare, contrast, etc.?) Your objective for this assignment is to describe, “What is anthropology?”

**2) HOW will you prove WHAT you said?**

The thesis tells the reader how you intend to prove your point -- you will be drawing your conclusions from the data you collected. This includes all the information you gathered that “taught” you or informed you about your topic (articles, textbook, websites, etc.)

**3) WHY are you writing this paper?** (What will I show, prove, challenge, etc.?)

By doing WHAT you are supposed to do (describe what is anthropology), and HOW you are going to do this (by presenting evidence from the data you gathered), you will show, prove, challenge "X".

SAMPLES:

[Theme: Cultural anthropology]

To understand what is cultural anthropology, we have decided to look at how anthropologists study food. In particular we will discuss Arjun Appadurai’s article “How to Make a National Cuisine: Cookbooks in Contemporary India”. We will argue that food can be a way to construct cultural identity.

[Theme: Linguistic anthropology]

To explain, “what is Linguistic anthropology?” our study looks at research on female discourse. Using Deborah Tannen’s article, “That’s Not what I Meant! How Conversational Style Makes or Breaks Relationships,” we argue women are taught to speak in a way that can hinder their career opportunities.

Your thesis statement should be in included in the Abstract portion of your poster.

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR ABSTRACT:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for the abstract: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract** (250 words) The abstract is a brief summary paragraph of your research project. The abstract briefly states the a. research question, b. the reason or rationale for the study, c. the hypothesis, and the methods. These areas are explained in further detail in your proposal (and your final paper assignment). In general it should consist of the following:

* 1. It should be approximately 250 words
	2. It should introduce your topic and highlight the motivation for your project:
	3. What is the topic or purpose of your study?
	4. What is your research question, the main objective, or goal?
	5. What is your thesis statement? Why are the topic and/or thesis important? Why did you think it was interesting or important to choose the topic or thesis?
	6. Methods/Procedures - Though you will outline your research design/methods in more detail in a separate paragraph, you should have one sentence in the abstract that summarizes what you did to find an answer to your question (i.e. Qualitative research, observation, interviews, review of literature, etc.)
	7. Results/Findings/ product - Though you will go over your research results in more detail in a separate paragraph, you should have one sentence in the abstract that explains what you found.
	8. Conclusion – Though you will go over your conclusions in more detail in a separate paragraph, you should have one sentence that summarizes your main point. As a result of completing your research, what did you learn? What does it mean? Did you meet your main goal/objective?  What contribution does your research make? In other words, what are the larger implications of what you found? Do you have suggestions for future research?

\*DO NOT SIMPLY CUT AND PASTE THE ABSTRACT FROM THE SCHOLARLY ARTICLE THAT YOU SELECTED (that would be plagiarism = automatic “F”)

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for this task: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We have four subgroups:

1. Physical Anthropology:
2. Archeology:
3. Linguistic Anthropology
4. Cultural Anthropology.

Your goal is to illustrate an understanding of anthropology from the perspective of the subgroup you selected. What is the topic of your group project?

***Write your topic below:***

* 1. Write a potential “research question.” *What is* the purpose of your study? For example, “How do linguistic anthropologists study culture?” This is a start but it is still too broad and you will need to narrow the topic down. Look at the article you selected and perhaps present to the class a description of the author’s thesis. Can this be a research question? What question(s) will you answer in your research?
		1. *Significance:*Explain why your research topic is important.

***Write your research question below and explain its importance:***

* 1. State your *thesis:* what you think the answer will be to your research question. What is the possible explanation to what you observed? You can develop your own thesis statement, or you can explain that you are describing the thesis of the research article you selected.

***Write your thesis below:***

* 1. *Brief contextual background on your topic.*Explain a background history of the topic. Why is your research important? How does it relate to your personal experience yet also to a societal trend (society at large). Describe your topic (facts, statistics, etc.) and cite any sources you referred to for information (including web sites).

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for this task: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Where will you learn about your topic? You will need to use one academic article – which one will your group choose? Make sure everyone has a copy of the articles and materials you choose. Everyone should read the materials carefully and write up reading notes. Look at the academic article you have chosen to see how what methods the researcher used to gather their data. Coordinate the collection of additional research material via the library or internet. ***You must give me an electronic copy of the article so I can check if it is a scholarly article, and so I might post it on blackboard.***

You will need to do some background research on your topic in order to identify any major issues, problems, or questions surrounding the topic. Look at the textbook related to your sub discipline. Browse the internet for scholarly research on the topic:

• Open source journal articles from City Tech Library Databases such as JSTOR or Wilson or EBSCO

• Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com)

• NovelNY (http://novelnewyork.org)

• Ask the city tech librarian for help.

*Literature Review:* A description of the various research articles you will use to explain or prove your thesis. ***For this class, you must discuss at least 1 peer reviewed scholarly article***.

***Write the name of the author and title of the peer-reviewed article that your group selected below:***

You will need to briefly describe the article to the class. Look at the articles “abstract” to see if it will potentially fit your research interests. See attached tips on “How to Read a Scientific Paper”. **On the poster provide a brief paragraph description of the article.** You need to be able to:

1. Describe the topic of the article.
2. Explain the author’s thesis
3. Use a quotation from the article and explain what it means in your own words
4. Explain how the article relates to your project.

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR METHODOLOGY:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for this task: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Methodology:** ***Discuss the research methods that someone in your field would use to address the topic your chose***. The methodology section (or “methods”) explains how the anthropologist conducted their research. Look at peer reviewed article your group selected, can you find the author’s description of their research methods? How did they conduct their research? What are the research methods anthropologists use to gather the information they need to address their research topics? Once you pick a particular topic you will need to discuss how the anthropologist collects data. For instance, if you decide to discuss Forensic Anthropology (a subdivision of Physical Anthropology), what type of fieldwork methods do they use to analyze their findings? What type of tools or techniques do they use?

Methodology needs to address the following 3 points:

*1. Selection criteria:* Given the chosen topic and research question, who would be the best subjects or participants for the research study? Where do Anthropologists find the subjects they want to study and why? Why do they choose a particular ***research site*** or a particular group of ***research subjects?*** What group of people could you study that would give you the best answer to your question? Why are these people the best subjects to tackle your research question? Describe the people of your study (age, gender, religion, ethnic background, etc.). How many people will be part of your study? How will your find your research subjects? Or is your project going to be self-reflective (based on your own experiences alone)?

***Write down your project’s selection criteria:***

1. *Procedures / Data collection:* The procedures section explains the way in which the anthropologist gathers data.

•Did the anthropologist conduct *primary research* (investigate and collect new data from the field)? (i.e. observation, survey, interview, audit, etc.)

• Did the anthropologist conduct *secondary research* (You investigate your research topic using previously collected information from another source)? (i.e. GSi research, or use an online database – see attached for list of possible databases)?

• Did the anthropologist do a *qualitative study or a quantitative study*? What is your research design? Will you do a questionnaire, a survey, or interviews (and what kinds of questions will you ask)? What other activities are involved? How long will the study take?

***Write down your project’s procedures:***

1. *Ethics:* When researchers study people, there are safeguards to make sure they are treated in an ethical manner. Typically proposals must pass an Institutional Review Board (IRB) comprised of a committee that evaluates your research design. There are “protected” groups of people that cannot be studied without special permission. For instance, you cannot do research on children without parental consent. With any group you study you need to explain what are the potential benefits or harm that your subjects may face? Given the topic, how would an anthropologist protect the people they study? What is “informed consent”? How would an anthropologist protect their research subject’s identity (pseudonym)? What could be the potential benefit or harm to participating in a research study?

***Write down how your project addressed ethics:***

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for this task: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Consider addressing the following:

1. Start with your research question or research goal.
2. Review, analyze and interpret the information you gathered to answer the research question.
3. Review the literature (the article(s)) you gathered to answer your question. Critique the literature. How does the article help you answer your research question? What would you add or eliminate from the author’s thesis? Explain how you will use the article that you selected to answer your research question.
4. What did you find? Summarize the key results that answer your original research question. Compare the results you came up with to what you originally expected to find.
5. Did you have any problems? Give a statement of any issues that may have affected your research results.
6. Write the discussion or interpretation of the results (this would be related to your thesis statement due next week).
7. Do you have any recommendations for future research? How would you conduct your research differently next time given the results you found?
8. *How does anthropology relate to your own lives?*

You can use two separate paragraphs

**Results:** What are your results? What is a possible explanation of your data?

***Start with your research question and explain what kind of information you collected and how the procedures best answered your research interests:***

**Discussion /Show how you proved your thesis:** In this section you interpret your results. How do your results “fit” within the literature? *.*

* 1. List the objectives of the project.
	2. Explain why your research is important.
	3. Think like a good lawyer who presents evidence to prove their point. You have a thesis, now prove that your thesis is correct using the data you collected as evidence.
	4. Explain any potential problems or weaknesses in your research plan.
	5. How are your results similar or different than the results in the studies discussed in your literature review (the article you selected)?

There are different ways in which you can approach the above task. You can talk about your subgroup in general, as the goal of the assignment is to illustrate “What is Anthropology?” (What is Physical Anthropology, what is archeology, what is linguistic anthropology, what is cultural anthropology)?

You can discuss the results and discussion of the article that you selected. In order to avoid plagiarism, you will have to make it clear that you are reporting on the author’s results and discussion: state the author’s name and cite the source. . You must write your own results and discussion and NOT simply paste the author’s results and discussion on your poster

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR CONCLUSION:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for this task: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** Summarize the key evidence you used to prove your thesis. Include a paragraph conclusion on your poster.

1. Explain how the thesis was proved.
2. Don’t add new information, but rather review the key points to the supporting argument.
3. Describe any suggestions for future projects and research related to your topic.
4. Could the research have broader applications, such as improving policy? Is there a call for action?
5. What did you learn that you can apply to your own lives?

There are different ways in which you can approach the above task. You can talk about your subgroup in general, as the goal of the assignment is to illustrate “What is Anthropology?” (What is Physical Anthropology, what is archeology, what is linguistic anthropology, what is cultural anthropology)?

You can discuss the conclusion of the article that you selected. In order to avoid plagiarism, you will have to make it clear that you are reporting on the author’s results and discussion: state the author’s name and cite the source. You must write your own conclusion and NOT simply paste the author’s conclusion on your poster.

TIPS FOR INCLUDING IMAGES:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for the images: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You should include graphics such as photographs, graphs, or pictures on the poster itself. If you find images on the internet, you will have to include where you found it on the bibliography. Some sources to find images include:

Google images

Use a camera to take pictures of your own

Draw your own pictures

Your group might decide to include a PowerPoint presentation along with your oral presentation of your topic. You still must have a physical poster to bring to class, but this can be supplemented with a computer presentation. Make sure your PowerPoint works on the City Tech computer, as some slide programs do not work on the PC.

You might also include visual representation such as short video links. YouTube is a good place to look for short video links. Choose very short videos – no longer than 5 minutes.

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Write the name(s) of the person from your group responsible for this task: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A bibliography should be in alphabetical order based on the authors' last name. If you are listing several articles/books by the same author, you list the entries by the dates of publication. You should make a reference to all materials used in your paper along with citations within the paper itself. If you looked at a website for reference, or used an online dictionary, you need to cite these sources as well.

SAMPLE BIBLIOGRAPHY (The following is in the official Anthropology format. You can use whatever format you feel comfortable with (i.e., MLA, APA)). The following illustrates how to cite a TV program, and journal article within an edited book, a radio program, an internet source, a book, a film, and a newspaper article. Internet sources need to have a document title or description, a date (date of publication or date retrieved) and internet address, as well as the name of the author (if known), and the date you retrieved it from the internet.

Check the City Tech Library for support (you can log onto easy bib for free through the library website to set up your own account to save your work. \*Note: if you are working off campus you will need to log in your city tech ID, and you must initiate your library access every semester).

<http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/research/subjectGuides/wiki/index.php/Style_Guides_and_Research_Paper_Support>

<http://www.easybib.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048>

**Brokaw, Tom**

1978 Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman: Should Stella Dallas Get Equal Time? New York: CBS-TV, 28 Feb. 1978.

**Collier, Jane, Michelle Z. Rosaldo, and Sylvia Yanagisako**

1997 Is There a Family? In: Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo (eds.), The Gender Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Science; pp. 71-81. New York and London: Routledge.

**Committee, KPFA Strike**

1977 Bourgeois Anti-Free Speech KPFA Management Is Ripping Off the World. Berkeley: KPFA.

***Drums from Africa.***

2002 Retrieved May 17, 2005, from <http://www.abcd.com/africa/b2k>

**Fredrickson, B. L.**

2000 Cultivating Positive Emotions to Optimize Health and Well-being. Prevention & Treatment, 3, Article 0001a. Retrieved November 20, 2000, from <http://journals.apa.org/prevention/volume3/pre0030001a.html>

**Mascia-Lees, Frances E., and Nancy Johnson Black**

2000 Gender and Anthropology. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc.

**Tati, Jacques, and Henri Marquet**

1953 Mr. Hulot's Holiday. In: Bernard Maurice and Pierre Aubert (eds.). Paris: A Janus Film.

**Weisser, Peter**

1972 Governor Reagan on Grass, San Francisco Chronicle, 29 Jan. 1972, Final Ed., p. 6, cols. 1-5.

JUST TO SHOW YOU THE DIFFERENCE -- THE FOLLOWING IS MLA STYLE:

Collier, Jane, Michelle Z. Rosaldo, and Sylvia Yanagisako. "Is There a Family." The Gender Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Science. Eds. Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo. New York and London: Routledge, 1997. 71-81.

Mascia-Lees, Frances E., and Nancy Johnson Black. Gender and Anthropology. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc., 2000.

**Bibliography:**

Crews, Frederick

1977 The Random House Handbook. Random House: New York.

Goldberg, Nathalie

1986 Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within. Shambhala: Boston & London.

Reitt, Barbara

2003 "An Academic Author's Checklist" in The Thesis and The Book: A Guide for First-Time

Academic Author's Edited by E. Harman et al. University of Toronto Press: Toronto.

Strunk, William and E.B. White

2000 The Elements of Style. Longman: New York.

Yaggy, Elinor

1980 How to Write Your Term Paper. Harper & Row: New York.

Zinsser, William

1990 On Writing Well: An Informal Guide to Writing Nonfiction. Harper Perennial: New York.

***Who will be responsible for typing up your bibliography of materials you used in your research? You need to include any additional articles you find on JSTOR, and any internet sites you looked at for reference (list the name of the website, the website address, and the date you retrieved the information).***

For this poster project I would like you to list in bibliographic format (such as MLA or APA style), all materials you used to learn about the topic you selected, such as the textbook, the article you selected, any website you referred to, the source of all images or photographs, etc.

**Bibliography:** Attach a proper bibliography of the works cited (such as MLA, or APA).

**Useful websites:**  • http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html • http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/ • http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workbook/evaluate.htm#citing • http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

There are online websites that can help you make your bibliography such as [www.easybib.com/](http://www.easybib.com/) or www.bibme.org/

***Consult with all your group members and write down any of the sources that were used in your project here:***

**FINAL CHECK LIST**

\_\_\_ Display clearly the title of your poster

\_\_\_ Prepare the abstract. State clearly the thesis and research question.

\_\_\_ Describe the research methods: 1. Source of subjects and selection criteria, 2. Description of procedures, 3. Ethics

\_\_\_ Incorporate a discussion of one academic article (download from JSTOR so all student’s can have access to it). Explain how the article supports your analysis/thesis statement.

\_\_\_ Describe your results and conclusion.Using the article you selected and other outside sources, what is the answer to your research question? What information did you find to support your thesis? How does anthropology relate to your own lives?

\_\_\_ Type up a bibliography of all the sources you referred to. (If it does not fit on the poster, you can put it on the side)

\_\_\_ Utilize visual images if appropriate (photos, drawings, maps, graphs, etc.)

\_\_\_ Revise a rough draft of the text. The written portions of the poster should be distributed to your group well before hand so that everyone can correct and edit any mistakes. I will need a copy of the text used on the poster.

\_\_\_ Don’t paste the poster together the morning of the event. Your poster should be ready to present before the class starts.

\_\_\_ Have a back-up plan. If one person is supposed to present the poster to the class, make sure you have an alternate person in case he or she is late to class, gets sick, etc.

**Format:**

* 1. On a large poster board
	2. The font should be large enough to see from a distance at least 20 point font
	3. Poster should include at least one paragraph of each: the Abstract, the methodology, the literature review, the Discussion, and the Results.
	4. Poster should include a bibliography of all sources including websites. This can be attached on the back if you don’t have room in the front.
	5. Run a spelling and grammar check. Seek assistance from City Tech tutors.

[**http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/poster.htm**](http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/poster.htm)

**Guidelines for Preparing American Anthropology Association Posters**

**General Information**

A poster session is a presentation of the results of a recent field or research project that can be described graphically. Presenters post materials such as maps, photographs, graphs, charts and/or tables on a display board along with textual summaries of their work. Poster sessions provide a more intimate forum for exchange than do regular paper presentations by facilitating informal discussions between presenters and their audience. Ideally, a well-constructed poster will be self-explanatory and free you from answering obvious questions so that you are available to supplement and discuss particular points of interest. Successful poster presentations achieve both coverage and clarity.

**Coverage**

Have you provided all the obvious information? Will a casual observer walk away understanding your major findings after a quick perusal of your material? Will a more careful reader learn enough to ask informed questions? In addition to a title/author label and abstract, most successful posters provide brief statements of introduction, method, subjects, procedure, results and conclusions. Ask yourself, "What would I need to know if I were viewing this material for the first time?" and then state that information clearly.

**Clarity**

Is the sequence of information evident? Indicate the ordering of your material with numbers, letters or arrows, when necessary. Is the content being communicated clearly? Keep it simple. Place your major points in the poster and save the non-essential, but interesting sidelights for informal discussion. Be selective. Your final conclusions or summary should leave observers focused on a concise statement of your most important findings.

***Title:***

Each poster display should include a lettered sign giving the title and the name(s) of the presenter(s).

***Content:***

Extensive, imaginative use of captioned illustrations, photographs, graphs or other types of visually appealing material is the point of a poster presentation. Please do not simply mount the text of your paper as a "poster." It will not be effective in this medium. People attending a poster session are free to move about from poster to poster, so presenters should limit the text to four or five pages of double-spaced, 16-20 point text. Lettering needs to be large enough to read from several feet away, so it should be at least 3/8" high in a bold font, or if hand-lettered, written with a regular felt-tip pen (not fine point). Each space will have a small table in front of it where you may place handouts, samples or other materials you wish to demonstrate or give out. Do not mount illustrations on heavy board because these may be difficult to keep in position on the poster board. Be sure to provide clear labels for each section of your presentation.

***Materials:***

Please bring other materials you may need such as a tape or line level. You may find it useful to have on hand a tablet of sketch paper and suitable drawing materials to assist in your explanations to observers.

***Location and Time:***

Each poster is part of a session and will remain in place during the assigned period. For best results, please set up your poster presentation 15 minutes before the first presentation. Plan on an exciting interaction with your "audience." Poster sessions are an innovative and challenging way for you to present your data and new ideas and to meet colleagues in a creative setting. \*Each group will have 10 minutes to present their poster to the class. Questions and answers will follow each set of presentations. (Your questions or suggestions should be written on your review form due to time limitations).

The following is complied from:Stewart, Anna M. (2009) A Research Guide for Students and Teachers. Syracuse: State University of New York, page 45.

**Research Paper Outline**

Introduction:

• Organize your introduction in a logical order.

•Start with the big picture then narrow down to your topic.

•Use the background information from your proposal as a starting point.

•Include many references to convince the reader why this study is important.

•State your objective and hypothesis at the end of the introduction.

Methods

•Use subheadings for each section of your methods (e.g., literature review, field research, lab analysis, statistical analysis).

•State your assumptions (e.g., “Population will grow at the same rate as in 2007”).

•State your sources if using secondary data sources such as databases.

•Provide the steps of your research procedure.

•Describe any statistics you use (e.g., averages, standard deviation, regression).

•Use references if you are using methods from a previously published study.

Results

•Use the similar subheadings as in the methods section.

•For each section, state the major result you found.

•Refer to your figures and tables.

•References are not necessary in this section

Discussion

•Use subheadings that emphasize the implications of your research

•Interpret your results by referring to other studies. Why did you find these results?

•Use references to other studies to explain the implications of your research results.

•If appropriate, include policy recommendations using references.

•Conduct critical self-evaluation. Highlight any methodological or experimental  errors that may have influenced the results. Are there any issues that the reader needs to be aware of in order to properly interpret your data?

Conclusions

•Restate the major findings and implications of your research.

•What future research needs to be done to more fully answer your question?

 Acknowledgements

• Who helped to guide your research? Who provided materials and funding? References

• List all references that you cite.

When reading the academic articles I would like you to be able to identify the topic and the thesis statement. “The SUNY-ESF Research Guide for Students and Teachers” pages 12-13 compiled the following

**How to Read a Scientific Paper**

“Primary literature” refers to scientific articles that report research results and are written by the scientists who conducted the research. Primary literature is always “peer-reviewed”, meaning that other scientists reviewed, edited, and approved of the quality of the article before it was published. These articles are published in scientific journals, rather than in magazines or books. Primary literature keeps researchers up to date in the new developments in their field. Reading this technical literature is also an excellent way to learn how to write scientific reports of your own, and re-reading is always necessary, as scientific articles are dense with information.

In primary literature, the same general format is used so that readers can quickly get the information they need. The format includes the following sections in the following order: Title, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, and Literature Cited. Each section always includes the same type of information, but, depending on the journal, the sections might be organized slightly differently.

**Here are some questions to guide your reading:**

1.**Who wrote the article? With which institution(s)are the authors affiliated?**

It is important to identify the affiliations of the authors, because their affiliations will give you clues as to the possible perspectives of the authors. For example, researchers at independent universities may have a different perspective than researchers affiliated with government or industry,. Look for other papers published by the same authors to provide insight into the background and experience of the authors.

**2. What is the publication date?** In rapidly changing fields of science, it is important to know how this paper fits into the development of ideas over time.

**3. In what scientific journal is the paper published?** Is a peer-reviewed scientific journal, conference proceedings, a government research report? Does the journal have a general focus (e.g., *Science)* or a specific focus (e.g., *Plant Ecology)?*

**4. What is the goal of the paper? Scientific papers are written with a variety of** goals, most often to report the findings of a particular investigation and therefore advance our knowledge of the natural world. Papers may try to summarize our current knowledge and formulate new generalizations; such papers are termed “review papers.” A paper may also try to resolve a controversy by proposing a new theory. The goal of a scientific paper is frequently found in the Introduction.

**5. What are the specific objectives of the paper? The research objectives are** usually stated in the Introduction, and they may be listed as hypotheses or predictions.

1. **What is the conceptual framework into which this research fits?** The authors should describe the current level of understanding of the research topic and explain how his/her study fits into this topic by reviewing the past works of other scientists and then identifying the need for the current study. You will find this information in the Introduction and Discussion sections.
2. **What methods are used to meet the stated objectives? A scientific paper must** report the methods in sufficient detail to permit replication of the experiments. This level of detail often makes for very difficult reading unless the reader is familiar with the research; however, these details are essential for critical evaluation of the work by other scientists. When you are reading a paper, it is often sufficient to understand the methods in a general way, rather than the procedural details.
3. **What are the major findings of the investigation? The results of the study are** explicitly stated in the Results section and are usually accompanied by figures and tables. The highlights of each figure and table will also be presented in the narrative portion of the text. Each of the objectives presented in the Introduction should be addressed in the Results section. Are the hypotheses stated in the Introduction supported or disproved?
4. **Are the stated conclusions supported by the data? Carefully check the results** and evaluate for yourself whether the conclusions are justified. Note possible sources of error in the methods, the data analysis, or interpretation.
5. **How do the results relate to the published findings of other authors?** The authors should explain whether their findings agree or disagree with previous research. Does this study resolve a conflict, or create a difference of opinion?
6. **What future research is suggested as a result of this investigation?**
7. **How would you rate the clarity of the writing?** The dense, concise style of technical writing is very different from other forms of composition. It is a highly efficient means of conveying complex information, but is often difficult to read.
8. **How was the research funded?** The Acknowledgements section will list all sources of funding for the research.
9. **Have the authors drawn upon all the appropriate references?** The Literature Cited section, which concludes the paper, lists the details of the sources, which were consulted (and cited) for this investigation.

**Source:** “Review of a scientific article in the field of plant science.” Robin Kimmerer. Originally edited by Nathan Anderson.

Cited from: Stewart, Anna M. (2009) A Research Guide for Students and Teachers. Syracuse: State University of New York, pages 12-13.