

Publishable Academic Topics

- Pose an analytical question
- Intervene in a debate
- Explain a discrepancy
- Is something seemingly inconsequential critical??
- Note a new problem with the status quo (a problem others do not see)

Big picture & logical argument



Be sure the paragraphs flow in a logical order.



Every paragraph must play a role in leading the reader from the premises to the conclusion.



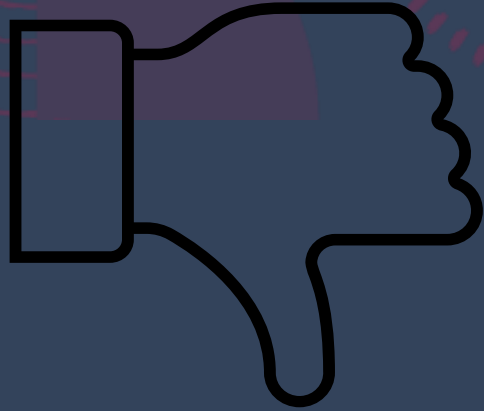
If you were to outline by paragraph, you will find premises that build; points are discussed in a logical order.



The conclusion is drawn from the evidence.

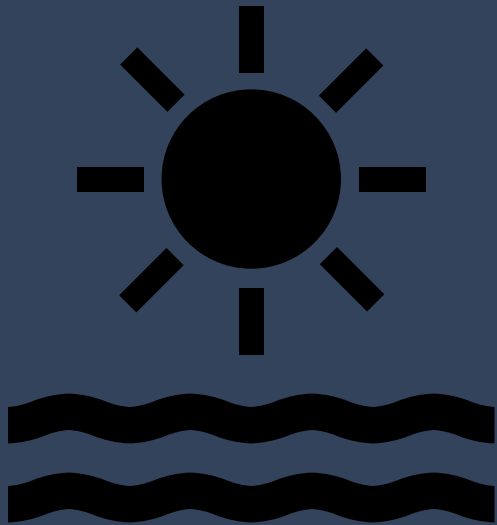


Editors must be able to answer: What is this paper's thesis?



No history papers-no overviews- no book or movie reviews

- #1 Priority: Our papers require bioethical analysis
- The argument is the primary feature!
- Argument must be based on evidence, data, philosophy, or supported opinion (op-eds are fine)
- Authors, please avoid submitting papers with excessive background, unnecessary ancient history, repetitive facts
- Footnote background and additional data
- Authors may offer citations to pieces where readers can find additional historical background



How to Build a Paragraph

TEST topic sentence, evidence (plus examples), summary, transition

IRAC issue, rule, analysis, conclusion

PEEL point, evidence (plus examples), explanation, link

MEAT main point, evidence, analysis, transition

Be able to answer:
What is the point of this paragraph?

FOR OUR PAPERS,
ANALYSIS IS VERY
IMPORTANT

TRANSITION IS
NOT ALWAYS
NECESSARY

Eliminate Jargon

Eliminate jargon, legalese, unnecessary medical terms.

Plain English

Use words you would say. Do not add formality. (Yet no contractions.)

Follow Our Guide

Follow our editorial style and grammar guidelines.
<https://doi.org/10.7916/d8-09y9-4h51>

Wording

Peer reviewers Evaluate These Nine criteria

Purpose /
Problem
addressed

Relevance to
bioethics

Original
contribution

Organization

Draws on
relevant
bioethics
literature

Develops logical
discussion and
argument

Conclusion
follows evidence
and argument

Writing

Grammar
mechanics

ELEMENTS OF STYLE

- "Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell."
- — William Strunk Jr. in *The Elements of Style*

Simple Style Readability

- **Periods Abbreviations and Acronyms**
- Do not use periods for either abbreviations or acronyms. Examples: US, CDC, WHO, KY, ME
- We use WHO NOT The WHO (unless you are saying The WHO guidelines concerning safety)
- **Use basics :**
- Relatives not “loved ones.”
- House not “home.”
- Death / died not “passed away” or other phrases.
- Different from NOT different than



Short declarative sentences

Every idea deserves to be its own sentence.

Active Voice (Avoid Passive)

Avoid names of researchers and cited authors in the text

- When authors use data, they should cite the source in the citation only.
- NOT According to Flaxman et al., the leading causes of vision impairment in 2015 were cataracts and uncorrected refractive errors.
- INSTEAD: The leading causes of vision impairment in 2015 were cataracts and uncorrected refractive errors. (Put Flaxman, et al. in citation in footnote or endnote only.)
- When comparing arguments, try to put authors in the citation only.
- If possible, avoid: Ezekiel Emanuel argues; Marcia Angell argues... We really want to know what our author argues.
- When possible, put the cited authors in the endnotes. Bioethicists often contribute to a line of reasoning so simply cite.
- No long quotations.

Avoid redundancy and use fewer words

- <https://canvas.hull.ac.uk/courses/213/pages/avoiding-cliches-and-wordiness>

AVOID	INSTEAD USE
Still remains	remains
Absolutely complete	complete
At the present time	currently
The reason is because	because
Continue on	continue
Due to the fact that	because
During the course of	During

Avoid Use of Cliche & Wordy Phrases

AT THIS MOMENT IN
TIME

EVERYDAY LIFE

AT THE END OF THE
DAY

IN THE CURRENT
CLIMATE

THROUGHOUT HISTORY

FEW AND FAR
BETWEEN

A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

IN THIS DAY AND AGE

THE FACT OF THE
MATTER

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND
DONE

IN MODERN SOCIETY
FROM THE DAWN OF
MAN

PROS AND CONS

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS
THIS DAY AND AGE

Endnotes or Footnotes

- Must be generated by Microsoft Word. (No manually typed in superscripts.)
- No lists of references; no bibliographies; no “works cited” list.
- No parenthetical citations in the text.
- We prefer Chicago Manual, MLA, or APA. Please be consistent.
- No multiple superscripts in one place.
- Separate sources within a footnote using semicolons.
- Fewer citations are preferred. Do not overcite.
- Text in the footnotes is accepted and preferred for ancillary facts.

Good Ideas & Good Papers

- 2021 rejection rate is 50 percent.
- Our editing staff can rework pieces with writing or grammatical flaws.
- Most rejections are due to structural flaws like a lack of sound argument, conclusions not supported by premises, illogical presentation, a lack of analysis, or a topic that does not address an analytical question or take a side.
- Some rejected papers are overviews of viewpoints, history, laws or policy, or industry, medical, or hospital data that do not provide analysis or take a strong stance.
- We happily work with authors to generate pieces that meet our guidelines. We use a guided revise and resubmit process to shape pieces that need more substantial revision. We welcome unpublished writers and provide support. Our goal is to create a pleasant and productive author experience.