Writing tips

• Avoid passive sentences
  – Concise writing
• Avoid repetitive sentences
  – Concise writing
• Creativity
  – Makes your paper more interesting, less sterile
  – Sets your paper apart from others
  – Pulls the reader into the topic
• Flow
  – Transition sentences
• Clarity
  – Have an objective friend read your paper, especially if they don’t know the subject matter
Which do you prefer and why?

The mere sound of the word thrips can strike terror deep into the heart of most people who like to garden. Farmers are particularly fearful of this pest insect due to the incredible amount of damage that thrips cause within only a few days. However, the order Thysanoptera, or thrips, contains more than 5000 species of which very few cause damage to agricultural crops. This order exhibits an incredible amount of diversity in feeding habits, morphology, behavior, movement, and reproduction methods.

The name Thysanoptera comes from the Latin thysan- for fringe and -ptera for wing (Cranshaw 2004). These insects range in size from .5mm to 15mm and exist throughout the world. Unusual among insects, thrips have a life history intermediate between hemi- and holometabolous, a haplodiploid sex control method, and intricate behavior patterns (Mound 2003). Complex morphological features among the Thysanoptera give the order exclusivity in the insect kingdom and cause a great deal of debate between the ordinal and familial phylogenetic relationships.
Antiseptic or Sterile Introduction

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How to find passive sentences

- Spellcheck/wordcount entire paper
- Highlight individual paragraphs or sentences and run spellcheck/wordcount again
- Look for two verbs (side by side) acting on a single noun
Reference lists

1. Title the top of the page as reference list, references, or works cited. I like to use larger type and sometimes bold face but whatever looks best to you is fine.
2. All sources sorted alphabetically according to the last name of the first author on each source.
3. Leave one blank line between each source, so reader can identify individual sources.
4. No headings or separations (aside from the customary one line between each source) between different source types. No need to classify or group sources as book, journal, or website. The type of source will be obvious due to the style of referencing used.
5. For book sources: Last name, first and middle initial of each author; date book published in parenthesis; title of book (italicized); period; edition number; comma; publisher and publisher’s address (city, state, country).
6. For journal sources (primary literature): Last name, first and middle initial of each author; date journal published in parenthesis; title of article; period; title of journal (italicized); volume number of journal (boldfaced); colon; page numbers in journal.
7. For websites: Last name, first and middle initial of each site author/manager/updater (if none, then host name as in your “within text” citing); most recent update to site in parenthesis; host full name; period; title of home page; period; title of specific page; period; web address; date you viewed the site.
Examples

• Books:

• Journal Articles:

• Websites: