

RA's	MAIN FUNCTIONS	PREFERRED STYLE	RULES OF THUMB
Title	Indicates content and main discoveries. Attracts the reader's attention.	Short and simple (7 to 10 words). Purposive (aims at specific audience)	Avoid complex grammar. Make it catchy! Avoid redundancy
Abstract	Reflects the main story of the RA. Calls attention but avoids explanations	Past (perfect) Tense and Passive voice. Short and concise sentences. No citations, tables equations, graphs , etc.	Avoid introducing the topic. Explain: What was done. What was found, and what the main conclusions are.
Introduction	Introduces the topic and defines the terminology. Relates to the existing research. Indicates the focus of the paper and research objectives.	Simple tense for referring to established knowledge or past tense for literature review.	Use the state-of-the-art references. Follow the logical moves. Define your terminology to avoid confusion.
Methodology	Provides enough detail for competent researchers to repeat the experiment: Who, what, when , where, how and why?	Past tense but active voice. Correct an internationally recognized style and format (units, variables, materials, etc.)	Mention everything you did that may give importance to your results. Establish an author's voice "we decided to ignore this data", not "some data was ignored".
Results	Gives summary results in graphics and numbers. Compares different treatments. Gives quantified proofs (statistical tests).	Past tense. Use tables and graphs and other illustrations.	Present summary data related to the RA objectives and not all research results. Give more emphasis on what should be emphasized. Call attention to the most significant findings. Make clear separation between your work and other authors' work.
Conclusions and Discussion	Answers research questions and objectives. Explains discrepancies and unexpected findings. States importance of discoveries and future implications. Gives list of related literature and information sources.	Present tense simple; Allow scientific speculation.	Present summary data related to the RA objectives are not all research results Give more emphasis on what should be emphasized, call attention to the most significant findings: make clear separation between your work and other authors' work.
References	Gives list of related literature and information sources.	Depends on Journal, author, editors. Year and title must be included.	Always cite the most accessible reference. Cite primary source rather than review papers.

Read the following introduction and decide what the writer expressed in each sentence:

The synthesis of flexible polymer blends from polylactide and rubber	In this sentence, the writer:
Introduction	
<p>1 Polylactide (PLA) has received much attention in recent years due to its biodegradable properties, which offer important economic benefits. 2 PLA is a polymer obtained from corn and is produced by the polymerisation of lactide. 3 It has many possible uses in the biomedical field¹ and has also been investigated as a potential engineering material.^{2,3} 4 However, it has been found to be too weak under impact to be used commercially.⁴</p>	<p>1 _____</p> <p>2 _____</p> <p>3 _____</p> <p>4 _____</p>
<p>5 One way to toughen polymers is to incorporate a layer of rubber particles⁵ and there has been extensive research regarding the rubber modification of PLA. 6 For example, Penney <i>et al.</i> showed that PLA composites could be prepared using blending techniques⁶ and more recently, Hillier established the toughness of such composites.⁷ 7 However, although the effect of the rubber particles on the mechanical properties of copolymer systems was demonstrated over two years ago,⁸ little attention has been paid to the selection of an appropriate rubber component.</p>	<p>5 _____</p> <p>6 _____</p> <p>7 _____</p>
<p>8 The present paper presents a set of criteria for selecting such a component.</p>	<p>8 _____</p>

<p>9 On the basis of these criteria it then describes the preparation of a set of polymer blends using PLA and a hydro-carbon rubber (PI). 10 This combination of two mechanistically distinct polymerisations formed a novel copolymer in which the incorporation of PI significantly increased flexibility.</p>	<p>9 _____</p> <p>10 _____</p>
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