

Getting Started

Christian Knoll

November 6, 2014

At some point it is necessary to start writing, but how should one start? This may sound like a difficult task and one certainly can spend endless hours worrying about where to start and how to write a good introduction.

It will get easier with the experience of many written papers under your belt. However, with this summary I want to give you a rough guideline and some advices on how to start the process of writing a technical .

1 Suitable Beginnings of the Introduction

Starting a formal paper is substantially different from suitable beginnings for the mass market. Matt young recommends a certain way to start your technical writing. The best way in most cases is to open ones paper with

- the purpose of the paper,
- a summary of the main results,
- a statement of the scope of the work,
- or with the background of the research.

It is, by any means acceptable, or even preferable, to state the conclusion of your work in the introduction. This way the reader will have an idea where the paper is leading him, and hopefully be inspired to read your paper.

1.1 Further Considerations

If you start with the main purpose of your work you should first know for yourself what it is. Therefore it is essential to identify the audience and the take home message of your work. Write down the I want to tell sentence, after you are finished with writing the intro you go back and delete the i will Think about readership, the message you want to pass, helpful : i want to tell young

Background: historical considerations, beginning of the chapter gives examples how this should be done and do not forget to high lite your own work! Some authors like to start a short review of past work. This may be reasonable, but if you decide to write that way you sh Still one can often combine background with other beginnings (i.e. start with a short background and state the purpose and scope of your work subsequently./

2 Daring Beginnings

Other beginnings are rarely appropriate for starting your technical writing. However, they may be suitable tool to get the writing started. One could get the attention of the reader with a joke. You could even begin with a critical question or a bold exclamation. Starting directly with an example, or a quotation may be used to fetch some attention.

If you decide to start your writing with one of these examples be careful. Such an opening can work perfectly well. Still one has to pay special attention that it is consistent with the rest of your writing. Most importantly it must be of relevance to the rest of your work.