

Proofs & co. Your argument – in particular your own contribution to the subject – should be self-contained. Only trivial issues may be “left to the reader”. If you present a statement, say, and promise a proof elsewhere, there is a good reason to believe that your paper should not have been written at the first place. Having said so, there is often the case to relegate gory technicalities to an appendix, while providing enough information in the body of the paper for the reader to understand the gist of your argument.

Once presenting material of others – as is sometimes necessary, whether to explain your narrative or place it in context – you may skip technicalities and unnecessary details or proofs (with proper reference).

Presenting your own results, it is a good strategy in long proofs or constructions to explain in advance the main chain of argument. **You are not writing a detective story but a mathematical paper!** Also, it is a good idea to explain exactly how your statements, definitions, theorems, proofs and numerical results differ (for better and for worse) from other work.

T_EXpertise. Write yours papers in L^AT_EX, A^MS_TE_X or plain T_EX. **Not** in MS Word unless you wish your paper to look clumsy and unprofessional.

- It is a good idea to use from the outset the class file of the relevant journal. Once the paper is accepted, this will make copy-editing easy but (more importantly from your point of view) prevent massive changes over which you might have little control and which can introduce unexpected errors.
- It is sound policy to use macros since this practice minimises typos and makes late changes safer. (Note that some journals frown upon this.)
- Unless you know exactly what you are doing, don't tinker with build-in parameters, like `\parindent`, `\parskip` or `\topfraction`: they are there for a reason.
- Avoid **too many** font CHANGES, **funny** ^{size} letters and other kindergarten tricks.
- Clumsy, careless T_EXing is obvious to the experts (i.e., most of us) and displays lack of respect to readers (and to referees!). Thus, avoid like a minor plague overfull or underfull `\hboxes` and `\vboxes`. Break equations sensitively in regard to both mathematical content and esthetics. **Always** typeset maths in maths style.
- Using BibT_EX is good policy, both in minimising eventual effort and in making stylistic changes easier.
- Don't let a preoccupation with endless minutiae of T_EXing become an obsession. With all its importance, typesetting is just a tool.

And then, few months later, you'll open a fresh, nice-smelling volume and here is your paper smiling at you, and you'll realise that

Happiness is a warm paper!

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 21 of 21

References:

- P. Halmos, "How to write mathematics", *L'Enseignement Mathématique* **16** (1970), 123–152.
- N.J. Higham, *Handbook of Writing for the Mathematical Sciences*, SIAM, Philadelphia PA (1998).
- S.B. Stechkin, "Как писать работы", *Fundamental & Applied Maths* **4** (1997), 1261–1265.
- N.E. Steenrod, *How to Write Mathematics*, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI (1983).