# FASLIP’s Writing Checklist

Ordering of specific points is flexible.

1. Introduction
   1. Motivation: General 🡪 Domain. Importance of domain.
   2. Problem Definition: Don’t assume reader is expert. State problem clearly.
   3. Specific Motivation: Limitation of existing work. Why problem is important.
   4. Justify why EC -> why GP or PSO specifically. Not because everyone else does.
   5. Idea: Your intuition/idea to tackle this limitation & why.
   6. Overall Goal: One sentence summary of motivation/idea.
   7. Objectives: You know what to do (ask Bing).

NB: If extending your previous work, state explicitly the differences.

1. Background (*optional*)
   1. Introduce concepts (especially less well-known) relevant to the paper.
   2. Baseline methods used in experiments.
   3. Most recent related/fundamental papers & limitations (if applicable).
   4. Summarise your motivation based on limitations of existing work.
2. Proposed Method
   1. Overall design of algorithm/system and its (short) name. Figure/psuedocode.
   2. Describe & **justify** each component of system **clearly**, including:
      1. Representation: encoding & how to produce output.
      2. Fitness function: explain in plain English. Justify its use.
      3. Other components, e.g. operators.
   3. (*optional*): Summary if long journal paper.
3. Experiment Design
   1. Datasets: reference, justify choice. Table summarising datasets.
   2. Benchmark Techniques: reference, justify choice.
   3. Parameter Settings: reference, justify choice. Include EC selection technique.
   4. Experiment Settings: how experiments are run. How datasets are evaluated (e.g. k-fold cross val.), #runs performed, computational setup (e.g. CPUs), data pre-processing…

NB: Binh wants you to explain how you avoid experimental bias. E.g. you should use only training data for parameter tuning.

1. Results & Discussion(s)
   1. Any parameter tuning experiments (or in exp. design if short).
   2. Introduction of tables & figures. Explain statistical significance testing.
   3. Overall pattern of results. Table of wins/losses/draws.
   4. Analyse contribution of each new development (link to objectives).
   5. More detailed/deeper analysis on particular patterns. Justify why.
   6. Discuss and investigate any unusual results.
   7. Further analysis of specific examples – can be separate section (e.g. journal).
   8. Summary of findings.

NB: Draw clear and effective figures. Sensible table font size & captions.

1. Conclusion and Future Work
   1. Revisit overall goal, discuss if/how it was achieved.
   2. Highlight major **insight** and contributions. Don’t just summarise paper.
   3. Discuss any limitations or outstanding issues.
   4. Future work: refer to limitations, any possible extensions. Clearly distinguish from this work.
2. Bibliography/References
   1. Format entries correctly and consistently: author, title, venue, year, publisher, page nos, volume & issue no. Delete all the extra stuff. Keep DOI if no page nos.
   2. Ensure there are recent (from current/previous year) references.
   3. Cite the journal/conference you’re submitting to if possible. Especially for ECJ.

Where to get bib entries:

1. DBLP: <https://dblp.uni-trier.de/>
2. Author’s homepage.
3. Journal/conference publisher website, e.g. IEEEXplore, ACM, Springer…
4. Google Scholar is pretty bad. Misses info and formats it wrong.

Other important tips

* Maintain your own .bib file and keep it up-to-date.
* Double-blind review: DON’T INCLUDE AUTHOR NAMES. Don’t cite your previous work as “yours”.
* Page numbers, copyright info, correct style.
* Cite references in order consistent with appearance in bibliography. E.g. [5, 10, 11] not [10, 5, 11].
* Try to avoid personal pronouns, e.g. “we did”. Don’t say “I” ever. Neutral is better, e.g. “This paper…”
* Use “on the iris dataset” or “on iris” not “on iris dataset”. “The GP method” or “GP”, not “GP method”.
* Don’t say “optimal” unless it truly is the best possible result ever. “Best” is more appropriate.
* Respect page limit.