

THE AUTHOR LIST: GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The first author
Senior grad student on the project. Made the figures.

The third author
First year student who actually did the experiments, performed the analysis and wrote the whole paper. Thinks being third author is "fair".

The second-to-last author
Ambitious assistant professor or post-doc who instigated the paper.

Michaels, C., Lee, E. F., Sap, P. S., Nichols, S. T., Oliveira, L., Smith, B. S.

The second author
Grad student in the lab that has nothing to do with this project, but was included because he/she hung around the group meetings (usually for the food).

The middle authors
Author names nobody really reads. Reserved for undergrads and technical staff.

The last author
The head honcho. Hasn't even read the paper but, hey, he/she got the funding, and their famous name will get the paper accepted.

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- What IS your new problem choice?
- How has it evolved?
- In the same topic area but more focused?
- Or in a new area? If so, why the change? (i.e., did the original idea turn out to be boring or hard or did something else capture your interest as you went through the literature)?

Connecting with an advisor:

1. identifying the right person
2. reaching out to them
3. expediting, if needed
4. how to prepare for your first meeting
5. what to expect in that meeting
6. how to follow up on that meeting
7. what to expect after that...

Questions for the meeting:

What they may ask you...

- What are you interested in?
- Why do you want to do research?
- What is your timeline/availability?
- What are your expectations (process, outcomes, ...)

What you want to find out from them...

- *Process*: Are there group meetings? Do undergrads generally get paired with a PhD student or postdoc? How do you handle problem choice?
- *Content*: Pitch your idea and see how they react!
- *Connection*: Ask what project/problem is at the top of their stack right now.

NB: these are only examples; your mileage may vary.