



## **WRITING THE PAPER TO ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**



As part of the process of becoming a Member of the Institute you are required to submit with your application a paper which will form the basis of some of the discussion you will have with the Executive.

Some people become very anxious about this part of the process but you should see it no more than an opportunity for you to express your own thoughts on paper about something you feel interested and/or passionate about.

The Institute may well choose, with your permission, at some stage to place your paper on the IMTD Website.

### **THE PAPER**



The important thing to remember that whilst it should be factually accurate it is at the same time an expression of your thoughts, ideas and conclusions in your own words on a particular subject but what you do need to be able to do is to “defend” or substantiate any claims if and when challenged.

### **Here are some of the frequently asked questions**

1. What should the paper be about?

*The paper itself should be related to driver instruction/training or road safety but the actual topic and subject matter is of your own choosing.*

2. How long does it need to be?

*The paper should be between 1000 and 1500 words.*

3. How should I structure the paper?

*This is for you to determine but the normal way would be:*

- An **introduction** in which you establish your subject/topic
- The **main body of the text** in which you set out the facts and arguments
- Finally, a **conclusion** in which you say what you think, based on the evidence in your main text.

4. Can you give me an idea of the kind of topic areas which would be acceptable?

*Providing you with this list is intended to prompt your own thoughts and is only intended to demonstrate the wide breadth of acceptable ideas which have been considered in the past:*

- *Critical Review of the Trainee Licence System*
- *Teaching people to Drive with Learning Difficulties*
- *A Review of Speed Workshops and the arguments for in Car Tuition*
- *Learner Centred Learning for At Work Drivers: The Way Forward*
- *Is the Road Network*
- *Do we Teach people to Drive in the Best Way*
- *The Lone Driving Instructor*
- *Developing Attitudes for New Drivers in a Workshop Environment*
- *Is the Hazard Perception Test Fit for Purpose*
- *A Critical View of the Current Drink Drive Laws*
- *The Best Approach to Undertaking Fleet Driver Training*

5. Can I draw on other research material and information in my paper?

*You can use any method of research that you like but when you are referring to a source, whether it be the internet, a book or an article or a piece of published research, you must clearly state what the source is, and if you use the actual words of that source, put them in quotation marks.*

6. Can I use diagrams, charts or graphics?

*By all means, if they clarify what you are discussing but don't think you have to include such material. If you do be sure you understand what you have included as you could be asked to give an explanation.*

7. Is there anything I should avoid?

*Please do not simply extract whole chunks of text from sourced material and simply paste them together to make up your own paper. We are interested in what you think. A 'cut and paste' job tells us nothing about you, other than you have no original ideas of your own.*

8. Do I need to seek approval for my subject/topic before I actually write it?

*You do not need any prior approval from the Executive about the subject matter before you put pen to paper. If you really wanted to seek confirmation or you have concerns about what you intend to do, as to its acceptability, then by all means float your thoughts and ideas with any Member of the Executive.*

9. Under what circumstances would the paper be rejected?

*It is very unlikely that the Executive would reject your paper outright. What is more likely is that you could be asked to provide a little more detail or clarification if what you have written is not understood or complete in some way.*

