

YOUR ARTICLE

ORGANIZING
WRITING
EDITING
REVISING
PUBLISHING

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BASIC OUTLINE FOR ACADEMIC PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- ABSTRACT
- Title
- Author(s)
- Introduction
- Thesis
- Support (project the organization)
- Literature search/background/history
- Body
- Findings
- Conclusion and Recommendations

ABSTRACT

- **Precis or summary**
 - Short (150 words; 250 maximum)
 - Explains the research and the author's position
- **Thesis**
- **Major support**
- **Major References**
- **Conclusion**
- **Format**
 - Narrative/Descriptive
 - 1st or 3rd person depending on journal
- **Style**
 - Terse
 - No unnecessary information or text

TIPS FOR WRITING ABSTRACTS

- Outline the research and conclusions.
- Outline the paper before writing.
- Outline the key points.
- Write a short summary of the paper.
- Write the paper.
- Re-write the short summary in abstract form.
- If there is revision, also revise the abstract.

INTRODUCTION

- What
- Who
- Where
- When
- How
- Why

THESIS

- Purpose of the paper
 - State what you aim to prove or disprove in the research and paper.
 - ONE SENTENCE
- Positive Statement
 - NO negatives
 - NO questions
 - Positive statement of what you want to prove or disprove:
 - **The aim of this paper is to prove that** the Amalgamation Theory proposed by Dr. X. (reference) is correct/incorrect.
 - **The research for this paper shows that** the Amalgamation Theory proposed by Dr. X. (reference) can not possibly be correct/incorrect.
 - **Current research discusses Dr. X's Theory of Amalgamation and they have proven that it is false by reworking the theory with more modern technology, including SPSS and other statistical programs.**
 - Dr. X's theory (reference) is correct/incorrect.
 - This paper proves that **the Amalgamation Theory as proposed by Dr. X.** is correct/incorrect in three ways.
- Short and CONCISE
- Clear
- To the point

OUTLINE EVIDENCE SUPPORT/PROJECTED ORGANIZATION

In one clear statement, project the organization of the paper.

This outline explains WHY the thesis is true:

Thesis: Dr. X's Amalgamation Theory is incorrect/invalid.

WHY?

The research team repeatedly tested the theory, using accurate statistics and hyper-logical analysis that showed no validity.

This statement is a “roadmap” to the paper; it explains what is to come.

Readers can anticipate what will be explained or argued.

Convincing your readers is easier AND MORE EFFECTIVE when they know what's coming and find it!

BACKGROUND

LITERATURE SEARCH, HISTORY

- WHO did prior research?
- WHO wrote prior papers?
- WHAT are the details of their research/paper?
- Are their findings valid?
 - Do you agree or disagree?
- Does your research extend the prior research?
 - OR, is your research original, or on a new angle of the topic?

- **BE THOROUGH**
- **BE CAREFUL/CONSISTENT**
- **BE HONEST**
- **DEMONSTRATE RELIABILITY**
- **LIST REFERENCES/AND CITATIONS ACCURATELY**

BODY: PRESENT RESEARCH PROCESSES

- Order the processes
 - What did you do?
 - What happened?
- Most important or strongest point
 - Presented first or last?
 - How stated?
- Details
 - Explain processes, measurements, statistics, etc.
 - Provide all references with appropriate citations.
 - Use the details to bolster your claims.
 - **Can you repeat the research, as explained, and get the same results???**
 - **NO redundancy!**
- THE BODY SUPPORTS YOUR THESIS AND PROVES IT IS TRUE.
 - **Every claim must be supported!**

BODY: PRESENT ANALYSIS

- Voice/person
 - Depends on the journal
- Explain the data
 - Description – narrative (if no hard data, then what?)
 - Qualitative or Quantitative
 - Explain the type of data collection?
 - What did you collect? How? From what/whom?
 - ***Absolute accuracy and clarity
- Explain your analysis
 - How did you analyze the data
- Explain the results—tell **WHAT YOU FOUND, NOT WHY**
 - Objective: The research team found that 67% of fourth quintile students and 82% of fifth quintile students did not continue beyond their second year at the university.
 - Do not conclude any findings at this point (but it's tempting to do so!)

FINDINGS

WHAT YOU FOUND OUT

WHAT YOU CAN PROVE/DISPROVE

- Use the results of your data collection.
- Sort your data: statistics, matrices, etc.
- Come to conclusions **that you can support with the data.**
 - Explain these conclusions in this section.
- Emergent information
- Stakeholder expectations
 - University or Institution
 - Funding agency
 - All involved at any level
 - Parameters/boundaries?
- Journal expectations
- Expectations of the reader

CONCLUSION RECOMMENATIONS

- Conclusions (STRONG CLAIMS ABOUT THE TRUTH)
 - Demonstrate without a doubt that your research is valid:
 - Data collection
 - Analysis
 - Findings
 - **Every claim is well supported with valid data.**
- Recommendations for future research:
 - **Do not burn your bridges!**
 - Data should be tested in a larger collection pool
 - Data applies to other research issues
 - Related questions that are unanswered
 - Related issues that need investigation
 - Institutional needs/demands for additional research

EDITING

- Review
 - Read the article carefully **IN HARD COPY**
 - Look for weakness/HOLES/insufficient evidence
 - Look for errors
 - Invite colleagues to read the article and critique *honestly*
- Change
 - Remove; move; re-write
 - Add more/different information
- Correct
 - All errors: content, organization, grammar, format
- REPEAT
- Proofread
- ASK: Does the paper support the thesis? Do I believe the author? Does the paper contribute new knowledge or support or disprove previous research? What is the value of the paper? What did I learn?

REVISING

- Re-organizing
- Ordering/priorities
- Rhetorical mode/position
 - Description
 - Analysis
 - Argument
 - Consider the journal purpose
 - To inform
 - To explain
 - To provide forum for argument
- Strong analysis
- Strong argument

CHOOSING YOUR TITLE

HOW TO SELL YOUR RESEARCH

- Thesis
- Interest
- Word choice
- Length

CHOOSE A TITLE for an article about social networking dangers and their relationship to children:

Children and Social Networks

Nasty Perverts Prey on Children in Facebook

Social Networking Danger for Children

Potential Relationship Dangers with Social Networking

Dangerous Children and Social Networks

PUBLISHING

- Is the paper/article worth/worthy of publishing? WHY?
 - Topic
 - Contribution
 - Timeliness
- Where should the paper/article be published?
 - National or International/FOCUS
 - Hard copy or Online
- Which journals publish similar articles?
- How should the article/paper be submitted?
 - Follow manuscript guidelines exactly
- What should I do with a rejection?
 - Revise
 - Correct
 - Re-submit to the same or different journal
 - Use as a base for future research/articles

ENGLISH ISSUES

- Abstracts
 - Concise and dense, terse voice, precision
- Papers
 - **Audience/Purpose**
 - Organization, Structure, Length
 - Voice
 - Support for thesis/**PROOF**
- References
 - Using references in various languages
 - Translations
 - Citation format (MLA; APA; CBE;etc-)—check journal manuscript guidelines
- Hiring an editor/getting help
 - Choosing an editor is tricky!
 - Does the editor have experience in academic writing/publishing?
 - Is the editor a native English speaker?
 - Has the editor written academic papers?
 - How does the editor charge for the services?
- Study English
 - Does the editor also translate?
 - Write in English, even if it is “Spanglish”
- Practice
- **RESOURCE: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>**