

Crafting an Academic Research Paper: Guidelines for Research Scholars

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the process of crafting an academic research paper. It outlines the necessary components to consider when writing a well-structured and effective academic paper. This includes defining the purpose of the paper, researching key issues, setting up an outline, and selecting an appropriate writing style. Furthermore, the paper outlines important writing tips such as using a primary format, properly citing sources and reviewing other experts' work. It also includes advice on proofreading and revising the writing. As well, the paper addresses best practices in presenting an academic paper, such as creating a thesis statement, writing an efficient and enticing introduction, and providing a strong conclusion. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive guide to crafting an effective academic research paper.

Keywords: Research, Publication, Peer Reviewed

SAMRIDDHI : A Journal of Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technology (2022); DOI: 10.18090/samriddhi.v14i02.22

INTRODUCTION

Academic research is a fundamental and integral part of attaining higher knowledge and developing novelty in the fields of science and technology. Academic research papers play a crucial role in imparting novel and ground-breaking insights into unexplored and complex areas of research. The basic premise of writing a research paper is to present the research results that the researcher conducts and to provide an analysis of the data gathered. The knowledge gained from the research paper helps to understand new phenomena and further consolidate it in the field of study. Therefore, crafting a workable and cogent academic research paper is a critical and demanding skill.^[1] In this regard, one must understand the importance of conducting research based on primary sources - including textbooks, the Internet, books, periodicals, etc. A thorough study of literature in the field and the paper's actual writing must be carried out professionally, which requires a well-crafted strategy. This strategy involves organizing the relevant pieces of information into topics that can be used to form the basis for the arguments presented in the paper.^[2] In addition to this, the paper should be logically structured and written in a persuasive manner.^[3] In addition, it is essential to decide which type of research methodology should be used in order to properly analyze and interpret the data. There are various techniques that can be used such as experimental research, qualitative research, quantitative research, and qualitative research. Additionally, the researcher should also

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How to cite this article: Chaudhari, S.V., Ahire, N., Chaudhari, S., Shinde, P., Jagtap, V., Singar, K. (2022). Crafting an Academic Research Paper: Guidelines for Research Scholars. *SAMRIDDHI : A Journal of Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technology*, 14(2), 250-253.

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None

be aware of the structure of the paper and choose a style or format that fits the overall research topic.^[4] The paper should have an introduction, body, and conclusion and must be properly referenced.^[5] After this, the researcher must decide how to present the results of the research paper. The researcher should consider the best method to present the data by showing the results and discussing it logically and systematically.^[6] It should also be ensured that the research paper is written in an authoritative manner, with the appropriate information given about the research topic and the findings. This will help ensure that the paper is credible and reliable.^[7] Finally, the paper must be submitted for publication to a journal, a conference, or book.^[8] Making sure that the paper meets the requirements for publication, such as the correct format, is essential.^[9] This can involve paying close attention to details such as grammar, punctuation,

and formatting.^[10] Once the paper has been accepted, it is time to undertake the revision process.^[11] This includes spell-checking, ensuring content accuracy, and ensuring the paper is well-structured. Furthermore, the paper should be proofread by an external reviewer.^[12] Finally, once the paper has been accepted, it is ready to be published.^[13] In conclusion, crafting an academic research paper can be a challenging and time-consuming task. However, this task is necessary to maintain the integrity and quality of the research and ensure that the results are valid and reliable. This includes understanding the basics of researching, structuring the paper, preparing it for publication, and revising it to make it acceptable for publication. One can create a successful and authoritative academic research paper through these steps.

Getting Started on a Research Paper

Writing a research paper can be a daunting task for many people. It requires a lot of research, organization, and analysis to produce a quality paper. However, it doesn't have to be a complicated process. In fact, breaking down the process into small, manageable steps can make it easier to approach and ultimately more successful. The first step in the process of writing a research paper is to determine the topic. This could be a general subject matter, such as "The Influence of Technology on Society", or a more specific question, such as "How have tablets affected academic performance in higher education?" Choosing an interesting topic to the writer will help make the process more enjoyable. Once the topic has been decided, the writer should start researching. Gathering data and information from various sources, including books, magazine articles, journals, and web resources, can help provide context and deeper meaning to the paper. Keeping track of the sources used is important, as citations will be needed in the final document. Once the research has been collected, the writer must begin the process of organizing and analyzing the information. This includes creating an outline for the paper to establish the structure and organizing the data into sections. As well it is important to consider the thesis of the paper, which is essentially the main point that the writer is trying to make. Finally, the paper is ready to be written. This means incorporating the collected data in a logical and interesting manner. The paper can include headings, graphs, and other tools to help communicate the research effectively to the reader. This guide is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to writing a research paper, but, following the basic process outlined above can help make the process more manageable. With proper dedication and dedication, a research paper can be a powerful tool for communication and furthering knowledge.

Step-by-Step Guide to Writing a Research Paper

Writing a research paper is a daunting task for many students. It involves carrying out extensive research and data gathering, analysis, and in-depth analysis of the gathered data. It can be a long and tedious process, especially for those who are unfamiliar with the research process. However, it

is important to note that the process of writing a research paper can be broken down into smaller steps that can be completed individually. This guide will provide an overview of the step-by-step process of writing a research paper. The first step is to choose a topic. This can often be the most difficult stage, as it will determine what the research paper will ultimately be about. In order to narrow down the topic, the research paper should focus on a specific problem or issue that has potential to make a tangible impact on society. Once the topic has been chosen, the next step is to create an outline for the paper. The outline should include the paper's main idea, subtopics, and any research questions that need to be addressed. Once the outline has been completed, the third step is to conduct research into the chosen topic. This should include finding and reviewing relevant articles, books, or other forms of published material related to the chosen topic. It is important to pay attention to accuracy, relevance, and objectivity when carrying out research. Additionally, it is important to create a plan for how the information obtained in the research phase will be organized into the paper. The fourth step is to write the paper. It is important to remember to use clear and concise language throughout the paper. The introduction should introduce the topic and explain why the topic is important or relevant. The body of the paper should provide a comprehensive answer to the research questions, drawing on the research material. The conclusion should summarize the research findings and provide further insight for future studies. The final step in writing a research paper is to edit and revise the paper. This includes examining the paper for any errors, making sure the content is clear and easy to understand, and ensuring that the paper flows logically. Additionally, any citations that have been used throughout the paper should be checked for accuracy. By following these steps, the process of writing a research paper can be broken down into individual pieces. Doing so can make the writing process much more manageable and achievable. Of course, the process can be challenging, but an effective and comprehensive research paper can be produced in the end. The number of pages in a research paper can range from 6 to 10, but this can vary depending on the topic. The important points are as mentioned below:

- Abstract (a summary of your paper)
- Introduction (introducing your topic)
- Review of Literature (discussing what others have written about your topic)
- Objectives (what you aim to achieve with your research)
- Methodology and database used (how you conducted your research)
- Research Analysis or Research Discussion (analyzing your findings)
- Results or Findings (what you discovered)
- Recommendations/Suggestions (advice or ideas based on your research)
- Conclusions (summarizing your main points)
- References/Citations (listing the sources you used)



Figure 1: A flowchart illustrating the process of writing a research paper

Abstract

Abstract is a brief summary of a broader research study which is usually present at the beginning of a research paper. The abstract should provide a concise overview of the purpose of the study, main results, methodology used and conclusions. It should be about 150-250 words and should not include any citation, illustration or reference to other literature.

Introduction

The introduction section familiarizes the reader with the broad area of research and narrows down to the research problem by introducing the research background and objectives of the study. It should explain the purpose of the work in the broad context of the existing problem.

Review of Literature

Literature contains references supporting the research study. This section should clearly explain previous related work to the reader. It should discuss the gaps in current knowledge and identify the objectives of the research.

Objectives

The objective/s of a research study is/are the overall aim or goal that the researcher hopes to achieve by doing the study. It should be singular/plural, clear and concise.

Methodology and database used

This section discusses the methods and techniques used to collect data and analyze results. It should include details about the use of instruments, databases, software and processes used in the study.

Research Analysis or Research Discussion

This is where the researcher interprets, analyses and evaluates the results of a research study. The researcher should critically analyze the data and draw conclusions.

Results or Findings

This section reports the results of the study in a concise, organized and structured manner. A technical research paper's Results or Findings section is an important part of producing meaningful research. This section presents the data that the researcher has collected during the course of the study. It is important to provide accurate and detailed information regarding the results that were obtained. Additionally, the results should be well-explained and in sufficient detail so that other researchers can understand and replicate them. The Results or Findings section should include tables and figures to clearly illustrate the results where possible. Overall, the results should be aligned with the research question and convey the core message of the study.

Recommendations/Suggestions

This section contains the researcher's recommendations and suggestions for further research. It should identify areas for improvement and growth.

Conclusions

This section summarizes the key findings and the contribution of the research study to the literature. It should provide a brief overview of the principal conclusions of the study.

References/Citations

This section should provide full citations of all the research sources used. It should be consistent with the referencing style selected by the researcher. References and citations are an essential component of academic writing. They help to validate research findings, demonstrate knowledge of relevant literature, and comply with academic standards. A reference is simply a source of information, while a citation specifies the exact part in a source that was used. References and citations are important because they provide evidence that may support an argument. By showing where the information comes from, readers can easily verify the facts for themselves, a vital step in assessing the credibility of an argument.

Depending on the formatting style, a citation might include the author's name, title of work, page number, date, publisher, etc.

For example, if an author wrote the book "Dogs" by Joe Smith, published in 1995, the reference might look like this:



Smith, Joe. Dogs. 1995. If a specific page in the book was used, then the citation would include the page number: Smith, Joe. Dogs. 1995, p. 61.

There are a few main formats for referencing and citations, with two commonly used ones being the MLA and APA styles. The MLA format is typically used in humanities-related subjects, while the APA format is used in scientific subjects. How a reference is written will vary depending on the source type. For example, references for books will look different than references for articles. This can be daunting for new writers, but luckily, plenty of resources are available to guide students in making proper citations. In conclusion, references and citations are an important tool for academic writers. They help to prove the validity of a research paper, show where the information comes from, and comply with academic standards. Referencing and citations can be tricky for new writers, but plenty of resources help them learn.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, crafting an academic research paper is a complex process that requires clarity of purpose, an organized and thorough approach to research, and an eye for detail. An academic research paper should focus on an appropriate topic, support its claims through comprehensive research, feature a well-structured argument, incorporate strong evidence, and present the information in an appropriate format. Furthermore, it should be logically and clearly organized and contain credible references. Writing an academic research paper demands careful consideration of the project's scope, the selection of an appropriate methodology and the selection of appropriate tools. Additionally, well-written academic research papers should be written with an audience in mind and should consider any elements of the writing process that can be employed to increase its appeal and effectiveness to that audience. Finally, good research papers should be written and edited with an eye for detail to present potential readers with an accurate, detailed, and crystal-clear representation

of the research conducted and its implications. With these guidelines, any scholar should be able to craft an excellent academic research paper.

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