This article is not a tutorial class, but let's learn.

Have you ever been told to go with the flow of something? More like: "Hey! Don't try to understand it, just enjoy the flow". For those of us who have seen Christopher Nolan's 'Tenet', I might be speaking for us by saying that we said it to ourselves. I did! I mean, it's a movie, don't expect me to stop after every scene to do some mathematical workings to understand what just happened. I feel that while we could still go ahead to finish the movie 'Tenet', not all movies have such an opportunity. We dump them halfway. Just like that, we go through life and its activities. There are some things we don't understand, but we go ahead with the flow, maybe hoping to catch it later, while for some, the moment we find it difficult to grasp, we drop them.

So, have you ever been in a situation where you want to put together research findings and are stuck trying to understand the 'how'? It's not a good place to be. If you don't know how to do it, you could either try to get something done even though it's not what you would have liked, or you could drop out of it and give someone else to do it. I believe many people run away from writing research papers. I dare to ask: which is more difficult? The experiments or the manuscript writing? I would say writing a research manuscript/paper. However, one vital thing to do in this case is to learn about it. Why? A lot depends on it! Your grades, degree, and career. You wouldn't want to treat this like watching Nolan's '*Tenet'* or Shane Carruth's *'Primer'.*

I aim to discuss an excellent way to put your research paper together. This piece is an excerpt from a research class I taught about two years ago. Generally, research papers should be according to the scientific method. Not to get you so worked up about understanding what this is, I'll explain using my favourite model, the hourglass model. What I like most about this model is all it ever does: transitioning from one level of generality to another. This way, you can arrange your thoughts properly. This model is so simple that it takes you through every essential step in writing your paper.

I can guess that just looking at the model gives a perfect picture of what you can do. Although it doesn't end there because if it does, then this article has no reason to exist. Here is the golden question: How do you address every stage of this model? Simple! Follow me.

Note: I will only discuss the introduction and statement of the problem in this episode.

So, how should you write the introductory part of your paper? You want to introduce your work to readers by establishing the field of your study. You want to write about the general and technical knowledge in the specific topic in which your research is. For example, if I have a project titled "Rate of mass shootings in the US", I'll want to introduce the paper by trying to answer questions like "what is meant by mass shootings?", "Why the US?", "how long has it been occurring?", "How did it start, develop, and evolve?", "What are some terminologies, facts and figures relating to mass shootings in the US that can make me understand the situation better?", "so, what does this research want to achieve?" Answering these questions will guide the information you want to include in your introduction. If you pay close attention to the questions I have asked, you should be able to coin some dependent topics. Let me guess: you already have them listed in your mind. I should list some of them out: the statement of the problem, the significance of the study; the research question; aims and objectives. It is always a great idea to ask yourself some questions before you start writing. Did you mention background and research hypotheses? I bet you did!

Just like a poorly scripted, directed and produced pilot episode of a show can ruin the whole show, the manner with which you introduce your research paper can put off the reader. "Why should I continue reading a paper that has failed to bring me up to speed about what is happening and why the project was necessary?" So, you will do yourself good by giving much attention to your introduction.

As short as your statement of the problem identified in your research might be, it is an integral part of your introduction. I treat this part as an opportunity to explain the problem that the project is expected or designed to address. You should make this part about the negative aspect of the current situation. It reads "statement of the PROBLEM". You want to elaborate on the problem and then highlight why it matters. To do this, I encourage adopting the 5 'W's (Who, What, Where, When and Why) rule.

Look at this example:

"Townsville General Hospital (where) operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As such, the needs of patients have to be addressed all around the clock. For the overnight shift (when), there are currently no cardiology technologists scheduled (what), which can create issues for emergency staff (who).

Some patients wait for four hours or more for a medical laboratory assistant to administer an electrocardiogram (ECG), a task better suited for a Cardiology Technologist to perform and interpret. This situation results in poorer patient care and worse health outcomes (why).

The hospital should always have a cardiology technologist available, even if they are only on call for the overnight shift (how)."

Finally, some hints that always work:

Focus on existing problems. However, stay on just one existing problem

Do not suggest a solution

Remember, if you don't understand, you won't do it well.