

Elements of a Research Paper

Fresno State Graduate Writing Studio

TITLE PAGE

main idea
concise
explanatory
can stand alone
avoid abbreviations

ABSTRACT

summary
comprehensive
accurate
objective
informative
make every word count

Introduction

Why is this important?

introduce & describe
problem
provide background
show significance of
problem
include hypothesis(es)
include research
questions

Results

description of results
presentation of data in
graphical & narrative
form
no interpretation of
results

Method

research design
demographics of
participants
instrumentation
procedure
description of data
analysis techniques

Literature Review

How is my research related to others?

discuss relevant
literature
use primary sources
include seminal work(s)
describe previous related
studies
connect studies together
in a logical way

What did I find?

What did I do?

Discussion

What does it mean?
evaluate and interpret
findings
tie your findings to
relevant literature
discuss limitations
make recommendations
for future research

References

credit all sources used
within manuscript
give reader ability to
locate your sources
follow appropriate
formatting style
guidelines

Appendices

supplementary material
important information
that might be distracting
in manuscript body
might include additional
descriptions, transcripts,
survey templates

COMPLETE