

How to write an effective introduction in a research paper?

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Hello everyone. It's a pleasure to be here to make the presentation and the topic for today is "***How to write an effective introduction in a research paper?***". After the title page and abstract, the reviewers or your future readers first interact with the research paper is the introduction. So if the introduction isn't well written, if you haven't highlighted the research gap, if the contribution and the novelty of your paper aren't clear in your introduction. It's very likely that your paper will get rejected so that's why today I want to show you step-by-step on how to write an introduction for a research paper.

A lot of people really struggle writing the introduction, they get stuck, they don't know what to write. And you know as well that there is an idea that every introduction is completely different depending a lot on the discipline, research topics and so on. But it is really superficial, in my opinion, it's kind of like the iceberg, those differences are the small tips of the iceberg above the water and everything else 80 percent of the introduction is the same but because the differences are above water, this is what people focus on but we want to be focusing on the similarities because you know 80 percent of introductions across the fields and across research papers, whether this is a systematic literature review paper or the theoretical paper is almost exactly the same.

In my opinion, the main purposes of an introduction are to introduce your research topic, give general background information, and present the overall objectives of your research, which may arouse the interest of the readers to read the following content. While for writers, we need to establish a logical system, to lead readers into your logic to understand what you are writing about, and why your research is important.

Generally, a complete introduction tends to be around 10% of the total length of your paper, So the introduction is one of the most compact parts of the research paper. Since it is not very long, but needs to essentially give an overview of the context in what your study is taking place and your specific reasons for doing the study. Typically, an introduction usually organized from four aspects, including:

- a) Briefly introduce the research background
- b) Review previous study results
- c) State the research gap that needs to be filled
- d) Give an overall plan for your study.

What's more, as you can see in this figure, your introduction should start broadly and then narrow until it's a specific problem related to your research topic, same as the inverted pyramid. which means when you write the introduction, you need to start with the general and end with specific problems.

Step 1:

Typically, there are two ways of starting a research paper.

Number 1: you first to state your area of research, and present the importance of your topic. So you basically tell the reader why on Earth should they care about your study. I know your study is important to you, I mean my topic is the most important topic in the world for me, but why should

other people care. You need to state that right at the very beginning.

And the second way of starting the paper that often goes together is clarifying the definition of the key concept. The researchers introduce the importance and define the key concepts.

So for example:

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Step 2: the second really important element is the brief literature review. I specifically stress the word brief. it can be varying from two to three paragraphs. In this section, you need to summarize previous results that relevant to your research topic. If possible, when you summarize the literatures, please try to review from 2 to 4 aspects that attempt to solve the problem before we can identify the research gap.

It's noteworthy that be sure to cite the most recent articles, within ten years is the best.

Step 3: is to state the research gap. Actually, the research gap is the most important part of your introduction. You need to identify the research gap based on existing research, such as the lack of previous research, the limitations of former studies, and practical problems that need solving.), then explain why it needs to be filled. And you need to do it in one nice paragraph.

Step 4:

Well now, you can tell us what your study is about and state the aim of your research. Usually, one, maximum two sentences are enough to clarify the objective in your paper.

That's it, right? now very often, this is where introductions end.