

HOW TO WRITE GOOD RESEARCH

Skill / Habit	Elements / Sections	Suggestions / Resources
READ OTHER RESEARCH AND SET TIME ASIDE EVERY DAY TO WRITE	ALL	<p>Writing is in some ways a form of art but it is one that can be learned through practice. Part of learning how to write is reading well written published research (after you read several studies you will begin to see the difference between written and well written articles). Read what good writers have written about how to become a better writer – yes that does mean read books about writing.</p> <p>Set aside time every day to write. Then edit it later in the day. The more frequently you write and self-edit typically the better you write.</p>
GOOD RESEARCH WRITING BEGINS WITH GOOD WRITING	ALL	<p>Write in the third person (usually for most of the paper but always for the literature review).</p> <p>Be aware of sentence and paragraph structure.</p> <p>Proofread and utilize spelling & grammar check and Grammarly.</p>
AVOID PLAGIARISM	LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORY	<p>When in doubt cite. Every paragraph in a literature review or theory section should have at least one citation per paragraph, preferably more.</p> <p>For citation information see the sixth edition of the APA manual or go to Purdue Owl APA online.</p>
WRITE TO COMMUNICATE NOT TO IMPRESS	ALL	<p>When using a thesaurus utilize words that fit the content rather than sound/look impressive.</p> <p>Avoid using the word prove – social science research supports/ indicates but does not prove.</p> <p>Write with clarity – avoid flowery language or over use of adjectives. One strategy is reading your paper out loud – this often aids in finding issues with clarity (and flow as well).</p>
ACTIVE VERSES PASSIVE VOICE	ALL	<p>Active voice is typically preferred over passive voice but in some situations passive voice is more appropriate.</p> <p>See sixth edition of APA Manual or Purdue OWL Active and Passive Voice (Hold CTRL + Click to open link in a new window)</p>
ORGANIZE INFORMATION SO IT FLOWS LOGICALLY FROM ONE TOPIC TO THE NEXT	ALL (BUT SPECIALLY THE LITERATURE REVIEW)	<p>See: Galvan, J. L. (2006). Writing literature reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences. Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.</p> <p>See how to write “Strong Body Paragraphs” (Hold CTRL + Click to open link in a new window)</p>
MAKE THE RESEARCH WRITING INTERESTING	ALL (BUT SPECIALLY THE FINDINGS)	<p>Qualitative research reveals the real world in context. Due to the nature of qualitative research, the researcher has the opportunity to “create scenes on the page” (Emerson et al, 1995). Select the most interesting quotes from the collected data and make it come alive for the reader. Imbue the interest you had in conducting the research to the reader.</p>
WRITE, REWRITE AND WRITE AGAIN	ALL	<p>No one writes something perfectly on the first try. Proofread and self-edit.</p> <p>See Galvan (1995) chapter 13 for a final draft editing checklist and “Proofreading your paper” by University of Southern California (this site has information on writing numerous aspects of a research paper). (Hold CTRL + Click to open link in a new window)</p>

Keep the good writing skills/habits in mind while writing your qualitative research proposal and any future papers/research papers.