

# Writing a Research Report

# Objectives:

- How to write a research report
- How to develop an outline for your research report
- Writing about a variable
- Different referencing systems
- How to write a bibliography

# **Research Report**

A research report is a precise presentation of the work done by a researcher while investigating a particular problem and whether the study is conducted by an individual researcher or by an Institution.

# Writing a research report

- The last step in the research process.
- is the most crucial as it is through the report that the findings of the study and their implications are communicated to your supervisor and readers.
- the whole enterprise can be spoiled if the report is not well written.
- to your understanding of research methodology.
- your experience in research writing.

# Writing a research report(cont.)

- use of statistical procedures will reinforce the validity of your conclusions and arguments.
- research and other writing is in the degree of control, rigorousness and caution required.
- Research writing must be absolutely accurate, clear, free of ambiguity, logical and concise.
- the best researchers make a number of drafts before writing up their final one, so be prepared to undertake this task.

# Developing an outline

- it is good practice to develop an outline
- deciding how you are going to divide your report into different chapters and planning
- developing chapterisation, the subobjectives of your study or the major significant themes that emerged from content analysis can provide immense guidance.
- Develop the chapters around the significant subobjectives or themes of your study.

# Developing an outline (cont.)

- a complete chapter to it or combine it with related themes to form one chapter.
- title of each chapter should be descriptive of the main theme, communicate its main thrust and be clear and concise.
- title and contents of subsequent chapters depend upon what you have attempted to describe, explore, examine, establish or prove in your study.
- outline should specify the subsections of the chapter.

# Writing about a variable

- Why did you think it important to study the variable? What effects, in your opinion, may this variable have on the main variable you are explaining? (*This is where you provide your own rationale for studying the variable.*)
- In the case of a cross-tabulation, what relationships have other studies found between the variables you are analysing? (*This is where the literature review is integrated into the findings of the study.*)



# Writing about a variable (cont.)

- What did you expect to find out in terms of the relationship between the two variables? (*If you have formulated a hypothesis, state it here.*)
- What has your study found out? (*Provide the hard data from your study here, as tables, graphs or text.*)
- What does the data show? (*Interpret the findings of your analysis.*)

# Writing about a variable (cont.)

- What conclusions can you draw? How do the conclusions drawn from your study compare with those from similar studies in the past? Does your study support or contradict them?
- What explanation can you provide for the findings of your study?

# Referencing

- The report should follow an academic style of referencing.
- There are four referencing systems from which to choose:
  1. the short-title system;
  2. the author–date system;
  3. the reference by number system;
  4. the author–number system.
- You need to adopt the one that is acceptable to your university and academic discipline.

## Reference list

- Berman, R. A. (2004) 'Modernism and the *bildungsroman*: Thomas Mann's *Magic Mountain*', in Bartram, G. (ed.) *The Cambridge companion to the modern German novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 77–92.
- Fitzgerald, F. S. (2008) *The great Gatsby*. Edited by Prigozy, R. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mann, T. (2011) *The magic mountain*. Translated from the German by H. T. Lowe-Porter. London: Vintage.
- Pears, R. and Shields, G. (2019) *Cite them right: The essential referencing guide*. 11th ed. London: MacMillan.
- Saunders, G. (2017) *Lincoln in the bardo*. New York: Random House.

# Writing a bibliography

- is a list of titles books, research reports, articles, etc. that may or may not have been referred to in the text of the research report.
- A bibliography should include:
  - the authors' names
  - the titles of the works
  - the names and locations of the companies that published your copies of the sources
  - the dates your copies were published
  - the page numbers of your sources (if they are part of multi-source volumes)

## Bibliography

- Berman, Russell A. "Modernism and the *Bildungsroman*: Thomas Mann's *Magic Mountain*." In *The Cambridge Companion to the Modern German Novel*, edited by Graham Bartram, 77–92. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
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<https://www.biography.com/writer/virginia-woolf>.
- Dekoven, Marianne. "Modernism and Gender." In *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., edited by Michael Levenson, 212–231. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Mann, Thomas. *The Magic Mountain*. Translated by H. T. Lowe-Porter. London: Vintage, 1999.
- Neimneh, Shadi. "The Anti-Hero in Modernist Fiction: From Irony to Cultural Renewal." *Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal* 46, no. 4 (December 2013): 75–90.  
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- Richardson, Dorothy. "The Reality of Feminism." In *Modernism: An Anthology*, edited by Lawrence Rainey, 587–591. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
- Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Thank You.