

JOIN the MOVEMENT



# Structure of a Research Paper The How To Guide...



#### WHY WRITE A PAPER? QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

What is the most important achievement of your research?

Who should know about your research?

 What is the one most important contribution that you are making? (To the subject, you are researching)

#### **ESSENTIALS OF A RESEARCH PAPER**



- Title captures the essence of the entire paper
- Abstract the gist of the paper
- Introduction what the paper is all about and what it is trying to achieve. Must contain a section on "The Aim Of The Paper"
- Method used (Methodology) what was done and how it was done
- Results (Tabulated) explaining what was achieved
- Results (Text) explaining the tabulation
- Discussion provide counter points to the results and or highlight issues that cropped up in the research
- Conclusion what was finally derived
- Acknowledgments recognize the work of everyone who participated
- References (including citations)



- Title must capture what is processed and less about what is achieved
- Introduction
  - Set the tone describe the landscape
  - Highlight up to 3 important issues within the landscape
  - Focus on the one your paper is about
- Methodology easy to understand (structure)
  - Describe what is done in detail but in as few words as possible (experiment try to describe how one buttons a shirt or zips up a jacket)
  - Provide context that helps readers globally understand your work
  - Note: reviewers sometimes struggle to understand what you are trying to achieve



- Results state clearly what has been achieved
  - Provide data in a simple manner (tabulated)
  - Note: match text and data accurately!!!
  - Ensure figures, tables are numbered
  - Provide a summary of the achievements (longer than stating the results)
  - Details of achievements ensure the flow is consistent with your original aim(s)
  - Important achievements come first followed by secondary and tertiary ones
- Understanding figures and tables
  - How many tables and figures do you need? Depends on your data
    - No rule of too many or too little
  - Each table cell MUST be populated. Columns must be consistent with data and your aim
    - Too often tables are not linked to objects or achievements (often inserted as 'ornaments')



- Discussion why is it important?
  - This section is generally longer than the introduction
  - Contextualize your achievements by referring to literature (in detail)
- Important sections of the discussion a general guide (not an absolute prescription)
  - Begin with revisiting aims and then achievements meeting the aims. Be brief but don't miss details
  - Highlight key achievements to literature (identify gaps if any)
  - Expand on practical implications of the research and the achievements
  - Acknowledge any limitations (to your research and achievements)
  - Propose or identify future research that could be taken up from your research



- Citations and References
  - Recheck every single one you have mentioned in the paper (citations)
  - Record every reference you have used
- Important points when using URLs
  - Remember URLs change often
  - Best way to record URLs is to state when you last accessed them (provide date in DD/MM/YY format along with time in HOURS and identify your time zone)
  - Good practice is to access all URLs just before submitting and recording ONE day, time and time zone for all of them.

#### SUBMITTING TO A JOURNAL



Read Aims and Scope of the journal

- Read a few published articles or abstracts of articles to understand
  - What type of articles journal publishes
  - The type of details they look for in articles

#### SUBMITTING TO A JOURNAL



- Review Submission Guidelines pay special attention to
  - Means of submission many journals are ONLINE SUBMISSION only
  - Format of document to submit most only accept .doc, .rtf and .docx formats
    - Don't submit PDFs why?
  - Understand how citations and references need to be formatted
  - Tables, Figures are complex data many journals have specific requirements on how they must be uploaded
  - Ensure author(s) name(s) is correctly written along with credentials in the prescribed format

#### SUBMITTING TO A JOURNAL



- Letter to the Editor where asked for
  - Ensure written as simply as possible
  - Must contain sufficient detail of author(s) and their credentials
  - Give one or max two reasons why the article is suited for the journal
    - Align with an aim and or scope of the journal
  - Don't write too many details of your article
  - Don't copy and paste the abstract of your article

#### **RE-SUBMITTING THE ARTICLE**



Assuming same article is being submitted to the same journal AFTER a rejection or AMENDMENT request

#### If resubmitting AFTER a REJECTION

- Highlight that this is a resubmission
- Ensure issue for rejection is highlighted and detail how you have addressed it
- Explain what has changed and why editor should consider the article

#### If submitting AFTER a REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS

- Highlight that this is a resubmission
- Ensure EVERY modification is stated verbatim and you clearly outline what has been done to address the issue
- Explain why you now feel the editor should consider the article



# -THANK YOU-

www.vikramshilaedu.in







Have Questions?

