

English Academic Writing: Unit 4 Methodology Description

吕琴 语通未来 1周前

Sequential Markers

The following sequencing expressions are more frequently used to link steps in a description of a process or to divide a process into steps:

- To begin with..., First of all... etc.;
- Secondly..., Next..., After that..., In addition...etc.;
- Finally..., Lastly... etc.

Additional: Initially, subsequently, synchronize, simultaneously

2. Normally, a method section includes the following information elements:

- **Overview of the research:** brief description about what has been done;
- **Subjects:** the people/subjects studied, or the things tested;
- **Location:** where a research takes place;
- **Restrictions/Limiting conditions:** precautions taken to make sure that the data is valid;
- **Sampling techniques:** describing how the subjects are selected for research;
- **Materials:** the materials used to conduct a study or an experiment;
- **Procedure:** the steps of conducting the research in a chronological order;
- **Statistical treatment:** describing how the statistics are examined.

Of all the information elements in this list, the only items that are always

included in the method section are **materials** and **procedure**.

3. Ordering Methodology Elements

Research methodology is mainly about the procedures by which researchers go about their work of describing, explaining, and predicting phenomena. You need to state the purpose of the study and define the problem /issue clearly.

This guides you in deciding the methodology of research which involves:

- identifying the method of research;
- specifying the subjects of study;
- selecting an adequate representative sample of subjects;
- selecting reliable instruments for measuring the variables in a research problem;
- describing the procedure to be employed for conducting your research;
- collecting data;
- analyzing and interpreting your results.

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