Ariel Daugherty

Professor Bruster

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How to Write a Great Research Paper

For this week’s summary, I watched a lecture from Simon Peyton Jones on how to write a great research paper. As I watched the video, I noticed seven points were mentioned. First, an idea needs to be formulated, and a draft must be started. Second, a main idea must be mentioned. Third, the paper needs to be created in a fashion that simulates telling a story. Fourth, we need to ensure that our contributions are explicitly mentioned. Fifth, we need to recognize the importance of placing the related works after the introduction, problem, main idea, and the details. Sixth, we need to place the readers at the highest standard when writing the meat of the paper. Finally, we need to listen to the readers who have given us feedback.

At the start of the process, an idea must be formulated, and we need to start writing as soon as possible. The research portion of the process must be done after some of the paper has already been written. Waiting to write the paper after research could result in wasted time and effort towards the paper. During the writing of the paper, we need to realize that the research paper should be written even if the idea is trivial compared to what we have read on the subject relating to our paper.

The second step in the process is to identify the main idea or thesis. In the paper, we need to state the main idea directly to ensure no confusion is present among the readers. This statement must follow the background information on the idea we are discussing. Additionally, we need to make sure that our paper only has ONE idea.

The third step is to make sure the paper is interesting and engaging. We need to create the paper with the intention of making the readers crave more information with every passing sentence. As we write, we need to imagine as though we are presenting this paper. We need to state the problem, show how it is interesting, state it is unsolved, state how we intend to solve the problem, give the details on our solution, and state how what we say compares to other people’s approaches.

The fourth step is to write the introduction and write the contributions that we made to this main idea. We need to give evidence of our contributions to ensure the reader believes our claims.

The fifth step is to compare what we have with related works after we present our information. However, we should briefly refer to the related works throughout the paper. Once we write the section on related works, we need to give love or credit to the people we are mentioning.

The sixth step is to ensure that the readers get useful information out of the paper. We need to give examples of the problem, write examples of how to solve the problem, and give the most direct path to our idea.

The final step is to listen to the readers. As we give our paper one last look, we need to find friends who are willing to read the paper, and explain our expectations. Additionally, we should contact experts mentioned in the related works to see if any guidance can be given.

Writing a research paper is very important with many steps that people have discovered. As I watched the lecture on how to write a research paper, I was shocked at how much effort goes into writing a research paper. However, if no effort is made, our research paper will not be worth our time, and time is something we will never get back.