

# Research Paper Review

Friend's 1102 Classes  
Spring 2013

Check for the following in each research paper. The section titles below aren't required, but they are traditional for this genre. Regardless of section headings, you should "feel" the transition from one purpose to another as you read through the paper.

- **Title**

- Does the title indicate both the topic and the aspect being discussed?
- Would the title benefit from a "medial colon", starting with a very brief or catchy phrase and continuing with a statement of what's being explored in the research?<sup>1</sup>
  - \* "Hyde and Sikh: Literary Dualism in Sub-Continental Religions"
  - \* "(You Were) Right About Mao, Funk Soul Brother: Predicting the Interpretation of Zedong's Legacy Through 1970's Blackploitation Films"
  - \* "Fluoxetineage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Success Rates of Generic Anti-Depressants for Amphibious Crime Fighters"
  - \* "Feminism Ain't Funny: Woman as 'Fun-Killer,' Mother as Monster in the American Sitcom"
  - \* "iLess in Gaza: Apple, Hegemony and the loss of corporate control in Palestine"
  - \* "Seder? I Hardly Knew Her! Examining the Historical Roots of the Comic Pun in the 1st Book of the Tanakh"
  - \* "It's Not a Table for One—I'm Leaving it for Elijah: The Passover Guide to Dining Out Alone"

- **Introduction**

- What do other researchers currently think about the topic of this paper?
- How does the author's new research fit in with the existing work?
  - \* extends what they started
  - \* challenges what they concluded
  - \* answers what they asked for
  - \* confirms/echoes what they found
- Do you know what the author hopes to do with the paper? (In other words, where is the thesis?)

- **Methodology**

- Does the author explain how the new research was conducted?
- Do you know why the author chose that approach? Is it a valid reason?
- Do you know what kinds of people were chosen to participate?
- Do you know why those people were chosen? Is it a valid choice?

- **Results**

- Does the author show evidence of results through quotes, statistics, etc.?
- Are the results presented in a useful and readable manner, or are they jumbled or monotonous?
- Do the results align with the author's goal from the Intro §?
- Does the author help you make sense of the results, or is it up to you?
- Does the author highlight the important, surprising, or expected results, or are they all treated equally?

- **Discussion**

- Does the author explain why the findings from the Results § are important?
- What changes, actions, or next steps does the researcher suggest?
  - \* Fix a problem by...
  - \* Adjust a plan so that...
  - \* Stop/start doing such-and-such.
  - \* Think of such-and-such in a different way.
  - \* Ask so-and-so to start/stop...
- Are you left feeling convinced?
- Does the end address the concerns of the Intro §?
- Is the initial research question addressed? (It needn't be *answered*, but it must be *addressed*.)

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<sup>1</sup>Examples from @academictitles on Twitter. Yes, that actually exists. And yes, it's rather funny.