

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

An introduction is intended to provide *background information* on the topic of the article and explain the purpose of the research.

First of all, the author should state *the general topic* of the study.

The author also identifies *problems* which had not been solved in previous studies and which this article is intended to solve.

An introduction must clearly state:

- **the aim** of the author's research.
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To **formulate an aim**, one has to answer the question: “What do I want to create as a result of the research?”

This result can be a new methodology, classification, algorithm, structure, a new version of the existing technology, a learner's guide, etc.

The **purpose** is usually formulated with the help of the following verbs: *reveal, identify, form, prove, verify, determine*, etc.

- **Subject** is the sample or participants of the research study while **object** is the supporting content tools and data for reaching the conclusion.

An introduction must clearly state:

- **the relevance and novelty.**

The *relevance* of the topic is the degree of its importance today under current circumstances.

It is the ability of the results to be used to solve quite significant theoretical and practical problems.

Novelty is what distinguishes the result of this work from the results obtained by other authors.

Введение / Introduction

- A. Актуальность (с обоснованием и подтверждением)
- B. Научная проблема
- C. Цель
- D. Объект и предмет исследования
- E. Научные задачи исследования
- F. Гипотезы
- G. Ожидаемые результаты
- H. Концепция работы
- I. Значимость

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1** Do you find writing the Introduction section of an academic article easy or difficult? Why?
- 2** What is the main purpose of the Introduction section?
- 3** What kind of information do you always include in this section?

Reading

2 Text 1 describes five main stages that often appear in Introductions (after Weisseberg & Buker 1990, p. 22; Cargill & O'Connor 2009, p. 42). Fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

centrality context findings niche objectives researchers value

Text 1

Stage 1. Statements about the field of research to provide the reader with a setting or ¹ _____ for the problem to be investigated and to claim its ² _____ or importance.

Stage 2. More specific statements about the aspects of the problem already studied by other ³ _____, laying a foundation of information already known.


Stage 3. Statements that indicate the need for more investigation, creating a gap or research ⁴ _____ for the present study to fill.


Stage 4. Statements giving the ⁵ _____ of the writer's study or outlining its main activity or ⁶ _____.


Stage 5. Statements that give a positive ⁷ _____ or justification for carrying out the study.


3 Text 2 is an Introduction whose parts (A–E) are jumbled up. Put the parts into a logical order and then match them with the stages in Text 1. Compare your answers in pairs.


Text 2

 _____ A There is now a great deal of evidence that lecturing is a relatively ineffective pedagogical tool for promoting conceptual understanding. Some of this evidence is general, showing that learners gain meaningful understanding of concepts primarily through active engagement with and application of new information, not by passive listening to verbal presentations (reviewed in National Research Council, 1999). More specific evidence shows that students learn substantially more from active inquiry-based activities and problem solving than from listening to lectures (Beichner and Saul, 2003).

 _____ B To address the validity of these concerns, we carried out an experiment in “scientific teaching” (Handelsman et al., 2004) in a large upper-level Developmental Biology course, in which the same two instructors, teaching the same syllabus, tested the effect of two different teaching styles on student learning gains in successive semesters.

 ____ C Thirty years ago, the future success of biology students might have been predictable by the amount of factual knowledge they had accumulated in their college courses. Today, there is much more information to learn, but the increasingly easy accessibility of facts on the Internet is making long-term memorization of details less and less important. Therefore, teaching for conceptual understanding and analytical skills while encouraging collaborative activities makes increasing sense in undergraduate courses.

 ____ D The results we present here indicate that even a moderate shift toward more interactive and cooperative learning in class can result in significantly higher student learning gains than achieved using a standard lecture format.

 ____ E Nevertheless, many university faculty who are comfortable with their lecture courses remain unconvinced that more interactive teaching will lead to increased student learning, or that interactive teaching is even feasible in large classes.

Identifying goals

Talking about goals

word	in sentence or collocation	comment
goal	have something as a goal, achieve your goal	we don't usually say 'reach your goal'
intention	with the intention of -ing, have no intention of -ing	verb = intend followed by the infinitive
motive	motive for -ing [reason]	verb = motivate ; more general noun = motivation
objective	meet ¹ / achieve objectives	= what you plan to do or achieve
priority	top priority, take priority over, give (top) priority to	implies a list of important things
purpose	Our purpose was to test our theory.	on purpose means deliberately
strategy	Their strategy was to proceed slowly.	= detailed plan for success
target	reach / achieve / attain a target	= level or situation you hope to achieve
deliberate	We took the deliberate decision to keep our study small.	= intentional; is often used for something negative

¹we also talk about meeting criteria

An example of a mission statement

Look at this web page for the Centre of Research into Creation in the Performing Arts. Note how it uses the infinitive to express the aims, and note the formal language.

MISSION STATEMENT¹

ResCen exists to **further**² the understanding of how artists research and develop new processes and forms, by working with professional artists and others.

AIMS

To **establish**³ new **understandings**⁴ of creative methods and their **application** in practice-as-research, extending **knowledge bases**⁵ in these areas

To explore and **challenge**⁶ traditional **hypothesis-based** and critical-analytical **research methodologies** established within the university

To establish a **critical mass**⁷ of artist-researchers, meeting regularly, to **instigate**⁸ and **inform**⁹ new creative work across **disciplines**

To provide an **infrastructure**¹⁰ for **practice-led** and artist-informed postgraduate study within the university

To further develop **criteria**¹¹ for the **definition** and **evaluation** of **creative practice-as-research**, as part of the wider **national debate**

To **contribute to** the development of a national infrastructure supporting practice-as-research, at the **interface**¹² between academic and other centres of art-making and its study.

¹ short written statement of the aims of an organisation ² move forward, advance

³ encourage people to accept ⁴ understanding can be used as a countable noun in this context

⁵ the basic knowledge shared by everyone working in the areas ⁶ question ⁷ influential number

⁸ initiate, cause to start ⁹ provide knowledge that can influence ¹⁰ basic systems and support services ¹¹ standards or principles that you use to judge something or make a decision; singular =

criterion ¹² place where two things come together and affect each other

24.1 Answer the questions about the vocabulary in this unit.

- 1 What verbs are typically used with (a) *objective* and (b) *target*?
- 2 What word can we use to refer to the basic support services and systems of a country?
- 3 What phrase can we use if everyone in a country seems to be discussing an issue?
- 4 What is another word for academic subjects?
- 5 What are criteria and what is its singular form?
- 6 What is the opposite of theory-led research?

24.2 Choose the best word to complete each sentence.

- 1 Our hope was to *instigate* / **contribute** / *attain* a public discussion of the ethical issues involved.
- 2 Their target was to achieve a *deliberate* / *creative* / **critical** mass of support for their proposal.
- 3 The research *prioritises* / **challenges** / *achieves* existing theories in some exciting ways.
- 4 I hope my dissertation **meets** / *reaches* / *has* all the relevant academic criteria.
- 5 At the moment writing the assignment has to take *target* / *purpose* / **priority** over my social life.
- 6 What was your *goal* / **motive** / *intention* for choosing this particular university?

24.3 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first. Use the word in brackets.

- 1 Protecting the privacy of our subjects must take priority over absolutely everything else.
We must the privacy of our subjects. (PRIORITY)
- 2 Our intention in designing the questionnaire was to make it straightforward to answer.
We designed the questionnaire it straightforward to answer. (INTENTION)
- 3 We aimed to evaluate a new approach to urban planning.
We had a new approach to urban planning. (GOAL)
- 4 I did not intend to become a scientist when I began my studies.
I had a scientist when I began my studies. (INTENTION)
- 5 A methodology based on a hypothesis does not work in some cases.
A methodology does not work in some cases. (-BASED)
- 6 Our project is located in the area where sociology and psychology meet.
Our project is located sociology and psychology. (INTERFACE)

24.4 Complete the table. Use a dictionary if necessary.

verb	noun	verb	noun
	intention		hypothesis
	definition	establish	
achieve		base,
	practice		application

Research papers are broadly divided into empirical and theoretical papers.

Empirical Research Paper

- The author reports on his or her own study about a problem.
- Empirical research is research that is based on observation and measurement of phenomena, as directly experienced by the researcher.

Theoretical Research Papers

- The author develops and presents his or her own new theory about a problem.
- Theoretical research is a logical exploration of a system of beliefs and assumptions. It is usually based on the scientific method, which is based on the observation, measurement, experimentation and formulation of hypotheses, seeking their analysis or modification.