

PAPER WRITING LAB





MENU OF THE DAY

- Paper Writing Lab
- About your paper: specifics
- What is the **purpose** of a research paper?
- Research paper **structure**
(aka: how to reach the goal)
- Research paper **outline**
(getting started)
- Useful **tools**
(softwares, websites, plug-ins)

PAPER WRITING LAB: COACHING SESSIONS

Small groups (3-4 people)*

On appointment: email me!

mauro.scanagatta@unitn.it

*Form a small group and email me. If you are alone I will post the appointment on the course page for others to join.

ABOUT YOUR PAPER

TEMPLATE SPECIFICS:

- 10 - 12 pages, Bibliography included
- Single column
- Font size: 10
- Single line spacing
- Margins: 1.5 (word processors default margins)
- You can create your own template or taking an existing one and adapt it
 - e.g.: ACM templates, Overleaf templates, ...*
- IF YOU CHANGE TEMPLATE: certify in the paper that your template is equivalent to the amount of text of our specifics.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A RESEARCH PAPER?

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MAKING A POINT.

MAKING A POINT MEANS...

- Finding a gap in the existing literature of the SoA and fill it
- Developing and defending your argument
- Enriching the State of Art (SoA) of your research field
- Broadcasting your work among the research community
- Giving your contribution to the human knowledge

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MAKING A POINT MEANS...

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In practice, it means:

Develop a research question about a topic.

Develop your own critical thinking about a topic.

-
- NO NEED FOR: Data Collection, Experiments.
 - NEED FOR:
 - Read Scientific papers
 - Find an interesting topic at the intersection of ICT and Law
 - In the Discussion, show a critical approach and rise research questions for future research trajectories.

TIP: Your research paper is more similar to a project proposal for a PhD application, rather than to an academic article. ;-)

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

How to reach the goal

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

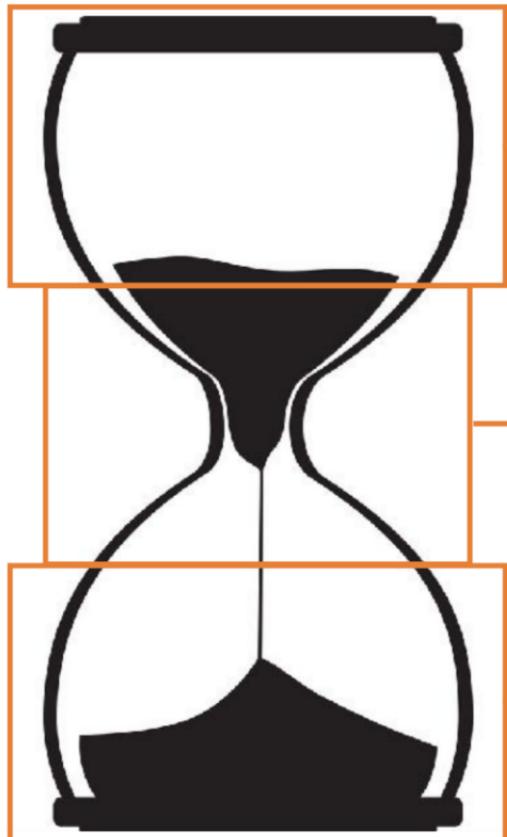


RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE



- Title
- Author's name & affiliation
- Abstract
- Author Keywords
- Introduction
- State of the Art / Background
- Methodology / Methods
- (Results / Findings)
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- (Acknowledgement)
- References / Bibliography

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

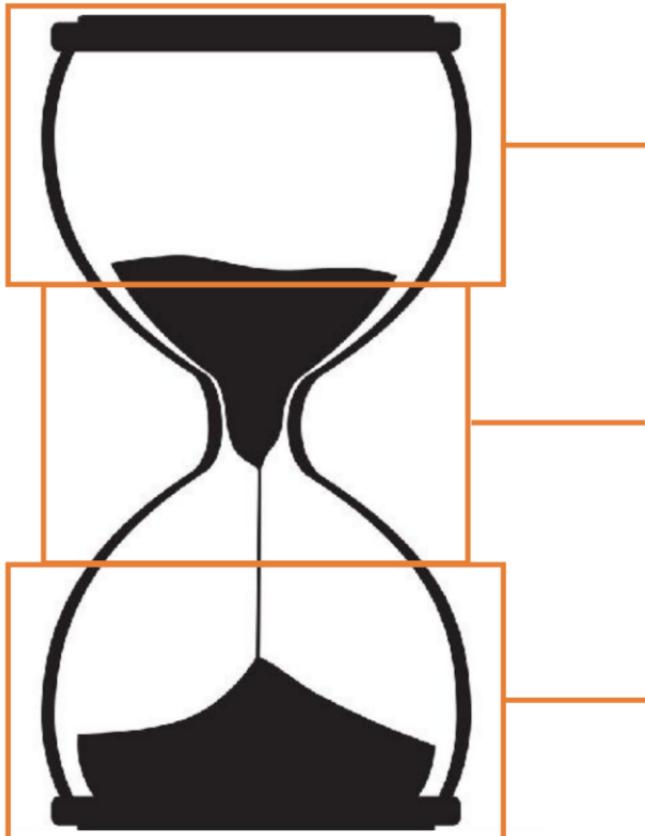


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RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE



- ABSTRACT, INTRODUCTION, STATE OF THE ART: What is known? What is unknown? (gap)
- ABSTRACT, INTRODUCTION: How and why should we fill the gap?

- METHODS: What did I do to fill the gap?
- (RESULTS: What did I find?)

- DISCUSSION: How do my findings fill the gap?
- CONCLUSION: What does this mean for us going forward?

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

TITLE

- Clear
- Catchy
- Includes 2-3 Author Keywords
- Can have a sub-title, separated by a colon (“：“) or a full stop (“.”)

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

- 4 - 5 Keywords
- Tell the research domains
- Used for database indexing

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

- Is a short summary of the paper.

“It should be the microcosm of the full article” (cit. IEEE Computational Intelligence Society)

- Must be self-contained:

- One paragraph

- No references

- No abbreviations / acronyms

- 80-250 words

- Includes:

- State of Art / Background

- Methodology / Methods

- Results / Findings

- Your contribution / key message

- 3 - 4 Author Keywords

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

- Presents what the reader is about to expect
- Introduces the research domain

In the field of...

- Introduces the gap

Little studies have been conducted regarding...

- Explains why and what you're going to do about the gap: your argument

This paper aims at...

- Explains how the paper is structured

The paper is structured as follow: Section 1...

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

STATE OF THE ART / BACKGROUND

- Presents the research domain (general)
- Focuses on selected trends, studies, methods, etc. of the research domain (specific)
- Highlights the gap in the literature
- States the research question

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

METHODOLOGY / METHODS

- Explains why you chose that methodological approach to fill the gap

e.g.: literature review, lab experiments, field studies, BECAUSE...

- Explains the methods you applied

e.g.: thematic analysis, statistical analysis, surveys, interviews, ...

Like a recipe: other researchers should be able to repeat what you've done

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

(RESULTS / FINDINGS)

- Show the data you found
- Explains the data you found
- Briefly introduces your contribution

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

DISCUSSION

- Recaps what the initial conditions were (SoA), and what they are now
- (Compare and discuss SoA and Results / Findings)
- Highlights your contribution
- States the limitations of your research and introduces future research trajectories

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

CONCLUSION

- Recaps what the reader has just read

In this paper we showed...

- Introduces future research opportunities

Our findings provide a starting point for...

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

REFERENCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY

Many styles to referencing a source (MLA, Harvard, Chicago, Turabian, IEEE...)

RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

REFERENCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Chicago B (author, date) is mostly used in the sciences, social sciences and humanities (alphabetical order)

Text: *As previous research showed (D'Andrea and Rossato, 2019)*

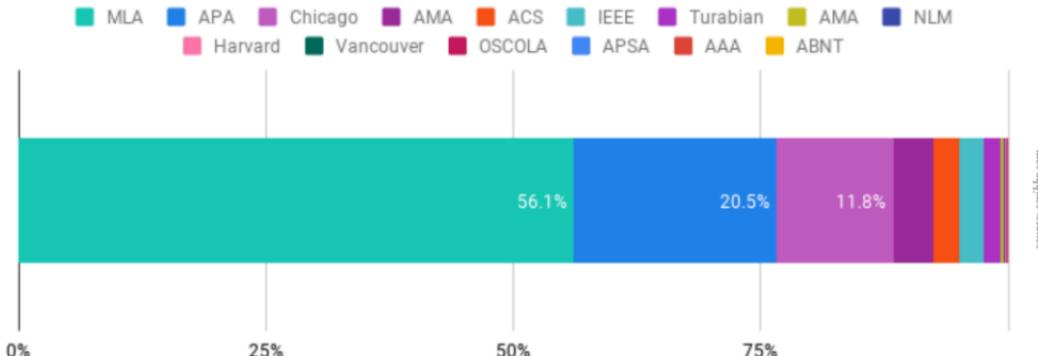
Bibliography: *D'Andrea V. and Rossato A. 2019. Course of Privacy & Intellectual Property,*

...

- IEEE (numeric) is mostly used in IT (order of appearance in the text)

Text: *As previous research show [1]*

Bibliography: *[1] D'Andrea V., 2019. Course of Privacy & Intellectual Property, ...*



RESEARCH PAPER STRUCTURE

REFERENCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chose one and be consistent!*

*(reference management softwares are big helpers in organising and exporting bibliographies in a consistent format)

RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE

Getting started

RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE

1. Do some **background research**
2. Decide your **research question**
3. **Sketch out:** Organise your ideas for every Section with bullet points
e.g.: *Introduction:*
 - point 1
 - point 2
 - point 3
 - ...
4. **Expand:** Take one Section and start to expand each point
5. **Edit:** Move paragraphs around the Section or to other Sections

RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE

A 10 - 12 pages paper for the Privacy & IP Course:

SECTION	NUMBER OF PAGES
Introduction	1 - 1.5
State of Art / Background	2 - 3.5
Methodology	0.5 - 1
(Results / Findings)	(2 - 3)
Discussion	1 - 3
Conclusion	0.5 - 1
Bibliography / References	1 - 2

USEFUL TOOLS

Softwares, websites, plug-ins

USEFUL TOOLS

- Peer-reviewed literature databases:
 - GoogleScholar: scholar.google.com
 - SCOPUS (by Elsevier): [scopus.com](https://www.scopus.com)
 - JSTOR: [jstor.org](https://www.jstor.org)
- Reference management softwares:
 - Zotero: [zotero.org](https://www.zotero.org) (desktop based, browser based, browser plug-in, LibreOffice/OpenOffice/MicrosoftWord plug-in)
 - Mendeley: www.mendeley.com
- Layouts:
 - ACM Templates: acm.org/publications/proceedings-template (Word and LaTeX)
 - Overleaf Templates: overleaf.com/latex/templates (LaTeX)
- English spelling and grammar:
 - MacMillian Dictionary: [macmillandictionary.com](https://www.macmillandictionary.com)
 - Grammarly: [grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com)