

Researchers use four moves to show how their work is important, relevant and new.

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| 1) Explain the Significance | Explain why someone would care about this research—your audience for this 1st move should be broader than your primary target audience (if possible, why the general public would care). In humanities research, the significance may just be the currency of the issue: the fact that people are talking about it. |
| 2) Describe the “Status Quo” | Describe current or conventional practices that are being used by researchers within the defined/limited scope of your field (e.g., reviewing current practices, literature or state of affairs). |
| 3) Identify A “Gap” | <p>Show that the current practices or state of research (i.e. “status quo”) in your field are incomplete, unsatisfactory or inconclusive and demonstrate a need for this gap to be filled.</p> <p>A common way to signal a gap is the word “however.”</p> |
| 4) Fill That Gap With Your Present Research | <p>Show how your current research or research proposal is a timely, necessary, or innovative solution to effectively fill the existing gap.</p> <p>If you’re not sure how your research is “filling a gap,” it could be novel in one or more of these ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new theory or hypothesis: explain a shortcoming in the existing theory to set up a new hypothesis• New solution: propose a solution to an existing problem or unresolved controversy; you must explain the problem and why your solution is better than other solutions• New methodology: critique methodology of previous studies and suggest improved methodology• New domain: investigate a previously unstudied population, site, material, or other phenomenon |

(Adapted from Handout provided by Student Academic Success Center)

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