

Student Resource Series:
How to Write a Research Paper?

LMS Student Resource



**London Campus
of Higher Studies**

“Empowering learners through independent inquiry, critical thinking, and academic excellence – at the heart of future-focused education.”

Table of Contents

1 Writing Your Research Paper	3
1.1 Title page	3
1.2 Abstract	3
1.3 Introduction	3
1.4 Literature Review	4
1.5 Methodology	4
1.6 Results	5
1.7 Discussion	5
1.8 Conclusion	5
1.9 References/ Bibliography	6
1.10 Appendices	6
2 References	7

Writing Your Research Paper

Writing a research paper is not merely about reporting what you found. It is an academic process of organizing your thoughts, presenting data, engaging critically with sources, and contributing to existing knowledge in a systematic way. A strong research paper reflects both your understanding of the topic and your ability to argue logically, analyze deeply, and follow academic conventions.

1.1 Title Page

The title page is the very first part of your paper and contains essential identifying information. Although seemingly simple, it sets the tone for your work (Einsohn and Schwartz, 2019).

What to include:

- Full title of your paper: It should be concise yet descriptive. A good title hints at your topic and methodology.
- Your name and student ID (if applicable)
- Institutional affiliation (e.g., university, department)
- Course name and code
- Supervisor's name (if applicable)
- Date of submission

A well-crafted title page reflects professionalism and helps readers immediately understand what to expect.

1.2. Abstract

The abstract is a brief summary of your entire research paper, usually between 150 to 250 words. Although it appears at the beginning, it is often written **after** the paper is completed (Einsohn and Schwartz, 2019).

What it should include:

- The main purpose or objective of the study
- Your research question or hypothesis
- Brief overview of the methods used
- A summary of the main findings or results
- The significance or implications of your findings

The abstract should be **self-contained**, meaning someone reading it alone should understand the core of your research without reading the entire paper.

1.3. Introduction

The introduction sets the stage for your entire paper. It should present the **background**, define the **research problem**, and state your **research aims** (Mukherjee, 2019).

Purpose and content:

- Introduce the topic and explain its context
- Highlight the significance of the issue or gap in knowledge
- Clearly state your research question or hypothesis
- Outline your objectives or what your paper aims to achieve
- Provide a brief roadmap of the structure of the paper

Your introduction should be engaging, logically structured, and informative. It should hook the reader and clearly show why your research matters.

1.4. Literature Review

The literature review is a critical examination of existing research related to your topic. It helps position your work within the academic conversation (Aveyard, 2018)

Key functions:

- Summarize previous studies, theories, or models relevant to your research
- Analyze strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and contradictions in the literature
- Show how your research will build on or challenge these works
- Provide a theoretical or conceptual framework for your study

It's not just a list of summaries it's a **critical synthesis**. Group the literature thematically or methodologically to show trends and debates.

1.5. Methodology

This section explains **how** you conducted your research, allowing others to replicate your study or understand the basis of your findings (Nosek and Errington, 2020)

Include details such as:

- Research design (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods)
- Sampling methods and participant selection
- Data collection tools (surveys, interviews, observations, experiments)
- Procedures for data collection
- Ethical considerations (e.g., consent, confidentiality)
- Data analysis methods (thematic analysis, statistical techniques)

The methodology should be **transparent, logical, and justifiable**, showing that your methods are suitable for your research question.

1.6. Results

This section presents the **raw findings** of your study without interpreting them. It should be objective and clear (Cunningham and Baumeister, 2016)

How to present results:

- For quantitative data: use tables, charts, and graphs to summarize statistics
- For qualitative data: present key themes, patterns, or direct quotes from participants
- Highlight only **relevant** results linked to your research question

Avoid discussing what the results **mean** in this section interpretation belongs in the next part.

1.7. Discussion

Here, you **analyze and interpret** the results presented earlier. You link them back to your research question and the literature (Popenoe, Langius-Eklöf, Stenwall and Jervaeus, 2021)

Discussion should:

- Explain what your findings suggest and why they matter
- Compare your results to previous studies
- Address any unexpected findings or contradictions
- Explore the implications of your findings for theory, practice, or policy
- Discuss the limitations of your study (e.g., sample size, methodology)
- Suggest areas for further research

This is often the most **analytical and thoughtful** part of the paper, where your critical thinking really shows.

1.8. Conclusion

The conclusion provides a concise summary of your research, tying together everything you've discussed (Zina, 2021)

Should include:

- Recap of your main findings
- How these findings answer your research question?
- Restatement of the importance or contributions of your study
- Practical implications (if any)

- Closing thoughts or next steps

Avoid introducing new information here. Instead, reinforce the key messages of your research.

1.9. References / Bibliography

This section lists all the sources you cited in your paper. It must follow a consistent citation style such as APA, Harvard, MLA, or Chicago, depending on your institution's requirements (Shanahan, 2019)

Tips:

- Use a reference management tool (e.g., Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote)
- Check for accuracy and formatting consistency
- Include every source cited in the text (no more, no less)

1.10. Appendices (if applicable)

Appendices contain **supplementary material** that would clutter the main text but may be useful for transparency or completeness (Strouse et al. 2023)

Examples:

- Survey questionnaires
- Interview transcripts
- Extended data tables
- Ethics approval documents

Each appendix should be clearly labeled (e.g., Appendix A, Appendix B) and referred to in the main text.

Final Tips for Writing

- **Start early:** Writing takes time and multiple drafts.
- **Be clear and precise:** Avoid vague statements or overly complex language.
- **Stay formal:** Use academic tone and third-person perspective unless instructed otherwise.
- **Proofread:** Check for grammar, clarity, and formatting.
- **Get feedback:** Ask your supervisor or peers to review your work.

References

- Aveyard, H., (2018). *Doing a literature review in health and social care: A practical guide*.
- Cunningham, M.R. and Baumeister, R.F., (2016). *How to make nothing out of something: Analyses of the impact of study sampling and statistical interpretation in misleading meta-analytic conclusions*. *Frontiers in psychology*, 7, p.1639.
- Einsohn, A. and Schwartz, M., (2019). *The copyeditor's handbook: A guide for book publishing and corporate communications*. University of California Press.
- Mukherjee, S.P., (2019). *A guide to research methodology: An overview of research problems, tasks and methods*. CRC Press.
- Nosek, B.A. and Errington, T.M., (2020). *What is replication?*. *PLoS biology*, 18(3), p.e3000691.
- Popenoe, R., Langius-Eklöf, A., Stenwall, E. and Jervaeus, A., (2021). *A practical guide to data analysis in general literature reviews*. *Nordic journal of nursing research*, 41(4), pp.175-186.
- Strouse, P.J., Khanna, G., Trout, A.T. and Offiah, A.C., (2023). *Editors' notebook: figures, tables, appendices, and supplementary material*. *Pediatric Radiology*, 53(6), pp.1045-1048.
- Shanahan, J.O., (2019). *Citing sources*. In *Undergraduate Research in Dance* (pp. 63-67). Routledge.
- Zina, O., (2021). *The essential guide to doing your research project*. Sage