

Elements of a Research Paper

Fresno State Graduate Writing Studio

TITLE PAGE

main idea
concise
explanatory
can stand alone
avoid abbreviations

ABSTRACT

summary
comprehensive
accurate
objective
informative
make every word count

Introduction

Why is this important?

introduce & describe problem
provide background
show significance of problem
include hypothesis(es)
include research questions

Results

What did I find?
description of results
presentation of data in graphical & narrative form
no interpretation of results

Method

What did I do?
research design
demographics of participants
instrumentation
procedure
description of data analysis techniques

Literature Review

How is my research related to others?
discuss relevant literature
use primary sources
include seminal work(s)
describe previous related studies
connect studies together in a logical way

Discussion

What does it mean?
evaluate and interpret findings
tie your findings to relevant literature
discuss limitations
make recommendations for future research

References

credit all sources used within manuscript
give reader ability to locate your sources
follow appropriate formatting style guidelines

Appendices

supplementary material
important information that might be distracting in manuscript body
might include additional descriptions, transcripts, survey templates

COMPLETE