

❗ x It's time for us to say farewell... Regretfully, we've made the tough decision to close Wikispaces. Find out why, and what will happen, here (<http://blog.wikispaces.com>)

## What is a research paper?

- A research paper is a written discussion based on an [analytical thesis](#) and supported by a collection of ideas and information. ([Click here](#) and [here](#) for more information on how to find a research topic)
- It is a way of presenting ideas and facts you have found through the reading of various materials.

## Why do we write a research paper?

- As part of our academic assignments
- To relate information and study findings in a professional manner
- To find answers to academic/ scholarly questions.
- For master's and doctorate's theses.
- A well-written research paper is composed by the use of a variety of outside sources with high credibility.
- You should use quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing techniques along with your own words.
- You should follow a style guide while writing your paper like [APA](#)\* or MLA style.

## Mainly, a research paper includes the parts below:

1. Title
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Literature Review
5. Methodology
6. Results
7. Discussion
8. Conclusion
9. References
10. [Appendices](#)

### 1- Title Page:

- Choose a comprehensive title for your study.
- Write your title in the middle of the page.
- Below the title, write your name, the name of your instructor, the name of your institution and the year.
- Somewhere above the title, you write [the running head](#)\*.
- The running head should be as clear and short as possible.
- The running head should appear on every page with the page number.
- [Click here](#) to see a sample title page.

### 2- [Abstract](#)\*:

- Your abstract should be as short and clear as possible.
- While writing your abstract:
  - Give a brief introduction of the general topic of the study.
  - Explain the exact research questions and the aims

- Give a brief description of the methodology.
- Give a brief description of the results.
- Give a brief description of the discussion.
- In other words, you answer the following questions in your abstract:
  - Why did you do the study?
  - What is the problem being addressed?
  - What did you do?
  - What did you find out?
  - What conclusions do you have?
  - [Click here](#) to see a sample abstract.
  - [Click here](#) for the "How to Write an Abstract" Wiki

### 3- The introduction:

- This is the part where you start with a broad basis and then narrow down to the particular field of study, explaining the [rationale](#)\* behind each step.
- You give some background information, the importance of the study, the limitations of the study and your assumptions.
- **Specifically;**

#### 1- Set the scene,

- by giving your paper a context.
- by showing how your study fits in with the previous research in the field.

#### 2- Give the rationale behind the research,

- by justifying why your study is an essential component of research in the field.

#### 3- State the limitations,

- by saying what you could have improved.

#### 4- State your assumptions,

- by giving the reasons.

### 4- Literature Review:

- It is a process of gathering and documenting information from other sources.
- It is a critical and in depth evaluation of previous research.
- A GOOD literature review...
  - integrates the previous research together.
  - explains how it integrates into the proposed research program.
  - highlights areas of agreement and disagreement.

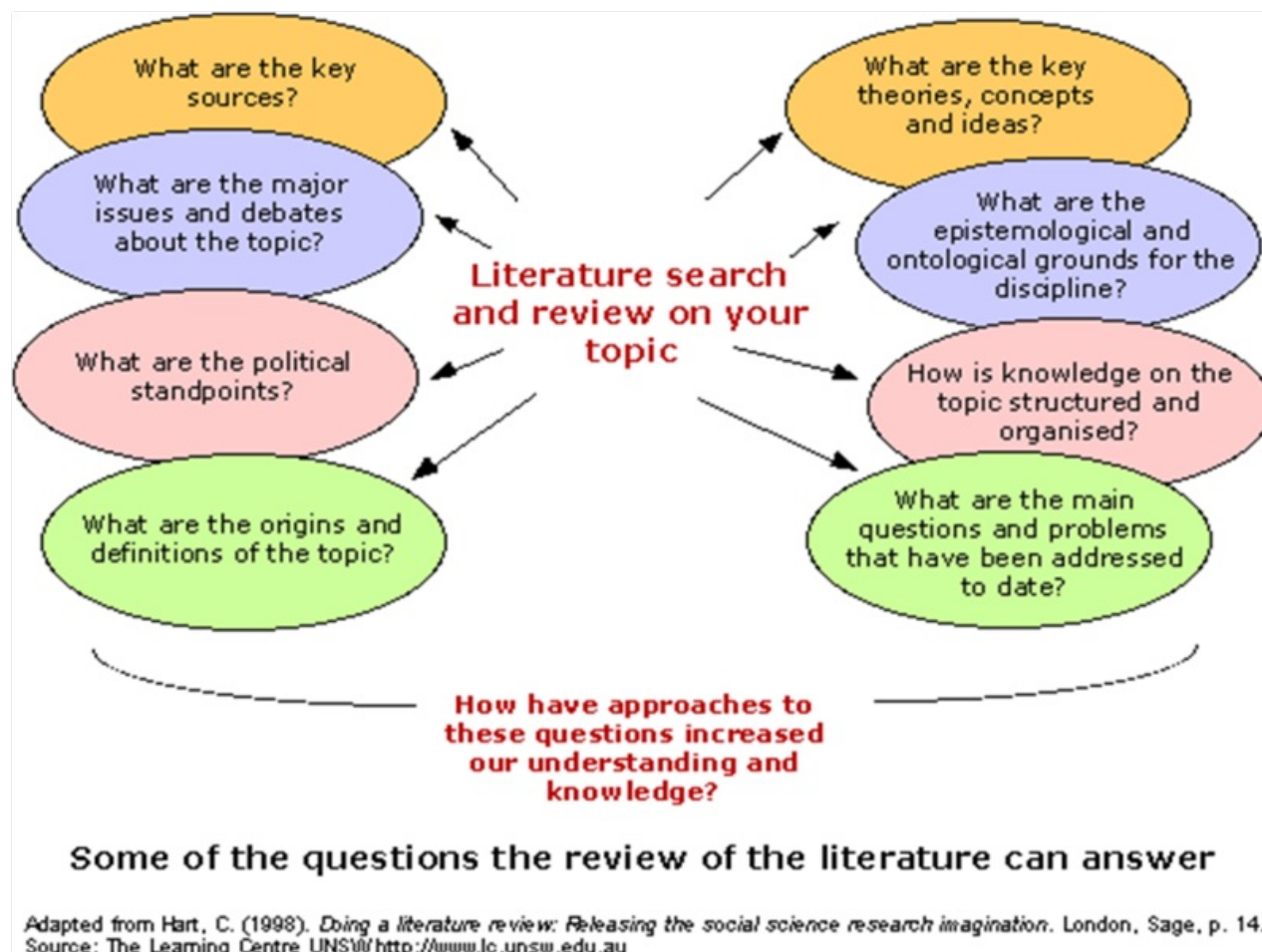
#### REMEMBER...

- A Literature Review is NOT a chronological catalog of all of the sources,  
OR...

- a collection of quotes and paraphrasing from other sources;  
BUT...

- it is an evaluation of the quality and findings of the previous research.

- If your literature review can answer the questions below, it is a good one!



- [Click here](#) for the "How to Write a Literature Review" Wiki.

## 5- Methodology:

- This part is the core of your paper as it is a proof that you use the scientific method.
- You give a completely accurate description of the equipment and the techniques for collecting the data.
- You explain how the raw data was collected and analyzed.

Specifically;

- Describe the materials and equipment that you used in the research.
- Explain how you gathered the sample:
  - Did you use any randomization techniques?
  - How did you prepare the samples?
- Explain how you made the measurements:
  - What calculations did you make?
- Describe the statistical techniques that you used upon the data.
- You can write this section in subgroups like setting, participants, instruments and procedure if it is applicable for your study.

## 6- Results:

- Writing the results section is announcing your findings to the world.
- In this part, present your findings without interpreting or evaluating.
- Include graphs, figures and tables to make your point clear.

- You make a commentary of exactly what you observed and found.
- It is a link to the discussion section.

## 7- Discussion:

- It is the part where you add interpretations to your work.
- Comment on the data and your findings.
- Criticize your methodology.
- Suggest any modifications or improvements for your design.
- Give recommendations for future researchers.
- Ask and answer “Do your results agree or disagree with previous research?”
- Ask and answer “Has the experiment contributed to knowledge in the field?”

## 8- Conclusion:

- It is the final part of your research paper.
- You should consider the following questions while writing your conclusion:
  - What has your research shown?
    - Give a brief description of the results
    - Give a brief summary of the discussion
- How has your study added to what is known about the subject?
  - Point out the significance of your study
  - Discuss how your study relates to the field
- What were the shortcomings?
  - Explain how any deficiencies may affect your results
- Has your research left some unanswered questions?
  - Do the findings open up any suggestions for future research?
- Are the results of any use in the real world?
  - Can you suggest any practical uses for the findings?

## 9-Reference:

- This part is also called “the citation list”.
- It is very important because it helps you...
  - prevent any accusations of plagiarism.
  - give fair credit to the work of previous authors in the field.
- It must include all of the direct sources referred in the body of the paper.

ENJOY your writing!

“Writing is easy: All you have to do is sit staring at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.” *Gene Fowler.*

