



Writing the Research Report

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Writing the Research Report

- What a research report aims to achieve
 - Importance of clarity, structure, and academic tone
 - Example: A well-structured paper helps readers follow your findings easily.

Structure of a Research Paper

- Abstract – summary of the whole study
 - Introduction – background, problem, objectives
 - Methods – how the research was conducted
 - Results – what was found
 - Discussion – interpretation and implications
 - Example: A scientific journal uses this exact structure for consistency.

Abstract

- Short summary (150–250 words)
 - Covers purpose, methods, key results, and conclusion
 - Should be written last after completing the paper
 - Example: “This study investigates... using a survey of 150 respondents...”

Introduction

- Provides context and explains why the study matters
 - States the research gap and objectives
 - Often ends with research questions or hypotheses
 - Example: 'Despite many studies on X, little is known about Y.'

Methods

- Explains research design (qualitative/quantitative/mixed)
 - Describes participants, instruments, procedures
 - Allows others to replicate the study
 - Example: 'Data were collected using an online questionnaire distributed to 200 students.'



Research Design

Qualitative • Quantitative • Mixed
Methods

What is Research Design?

- A structured plan used to answer research questions.
 - Ensures systematic data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Qualitative Research Design

- Focus: Exploring meaning and understanding experiences.
 - Uses interviews, observations, and focus groups.
 - Produces descriptive, non-numerical data.
 - Example: Exploring student perceptions of online learning.

Quantitative Research Design

- Focus: Measuring variables numerically.
 - Uses surveys, experiments, and statistical analysis.
 - Produces numerical and measurable data.
 - Example: Measuring test score differences between two student groups.

Mixed Methods Research Design

- Combines both qualitative and quantitative approaches.
 - Provides deeper, more comprehensive insights.
 - Uses sequential or concurrent data collection.
 - Example: Survey results supported by interview explanations.

Choosing the Right Design

- Consider the following:
 - Nature of research questions.
 - Available time and resources.
 - Depth vs. breadth of data required.

Results

- Presents findings objectively
 - Uses tables, graphs, or charts when needed
 - Does not include interpretation (save that for the discussion)
 - Example: 'Table 2 shows that 78% of respondents preferred...'

Discussion

- Explains the meaning of results
 - Compares findings with previous studies
 - States implications, limitations, and recommendations
 - Example: 'These findings support Smith (2022), who argued that...'

Citation Styles

- APA – common in social sciences
 - MLA – used in humanities
 - Chicago – used for historical and some academic writing
 - IEEE – technical and engineering fields
 - Example APA in-text: (Johnson, 2021)
 - Example IEEE: [3]

Drafting the Report

- Start with an outline
 - Write each section clearly and logically
 - Avoid long and unclear sentences
 - Example: Begin with Methods first because it is easiest to write from notes.

Revising the Report

- Check organization and clarity
 - Ensure grammar, punctuation, and formatting are consistent
 - Verify citations and reference list formatting
 - Example: Replace vague words like 'many' with precise quantities.