# Title of Your Manuscript [The title no more than 20 words]

Author 1, Author 2, Author 3

Author 1 affiliation

Author 2 affiliation

Author 3 affiliation

## Abstract

The abstract should stand alone, means that no citation in abstract. The abstract should concisely inform the reader of the manuscript’s purpose, its methods, its findings, and its value. The abstract should be relatively nontechnical, yet clear enough for an informed reader to understand the manuscript’s contribution. The manuscript’s title, but neither the author’s name nor other identification designations, should appear on the abstract page. An abstract consist of no more than 160 words.

### *Keywords:* We would like to encourage you to list your keywords in this section (6-8 words).

## Introduction

#### **What is the purpose of the study? Why are you conducting the study?** The main section of an article should start with an introductory section which provides more details about the paper’s purposes, motivation, research methods and findings.

#### The introduction should be relatively nontechnical, yet clear enough for an informed reader to understand the manuscript’s contribution.

## Literature review

#### The literature review represents the theoretical core of an article. In this section, we will discuss the purpose of a literature review. We will also consider how one should go about to find appropriate literature on which to base a literature review and how this information should be managed. Finally, we will answer four questions that first-time researchers often battle with when compiling a literature review.

#### These questions are: which aspects should I include in a literature review?; how should I go about to synthesise information in a literature review?; how should I structure a literature review? what writing style should I use when compiling a literature review?

#### The purpose of a literature review is to “look again” (re + view) at what other researchers have done regarding a specific topic (Leedy & Ormrod 2005:70). A literature review is a means to and end, namely to provide background to and serve as motivation for the objectives and hypotheses that guide your own research (Perry et al. 2003:660)

#### A good literature review does not merely summarise relevant previous research. In the literature review, the researcher critically evaluates, re-organises and synthesises the work of others (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005:84). In a sense, compiling a literature review is like making a smoothie or fruit shake: The end product is a condensed mix that differs totally in appearance from the individual ingredients used as inputs. The key to a successful literature review lies in your ability to “digest” information from different sources, critically evaluate it and resent your conclusions in a concise, logical and reader-friendly” manner.

#### First-time researchers often naively believe everything they read or are scared to criticise the work of others. However, academic research is all about critical enquiry! It is, therefore, extremely important that you critically evaluate the material that you read. Do you agree with the arguments and conclusions of other researchers? If you disagree, why? Can you identify contradictory arguments or findings? How could one explain these contradictions? Do the findings of previous studies applyin all contexts or are the findings context-specific? What are the criticisms against the conceptual models or measurement approaches discussed in the literature? Which limitations should be considered when interpreting the results of previous research?

#### To compile a proper literature review, one has to overcome three specific challenges, namely: finding appropriate literature on a specific topic; managing the information; and presenting a logical, synthesised and reader-friendly review of the current knowledge relating to a specific topic.

## Methods

#### Methods section describes the steps followed in the execution of the study and also provides a brief justification for the research methods used (Perry et al., 2003:661). It should contain enough detail to enable the reader to evaluate the appropriateness of your methods and the reliability and validity of your findings. Furthermore, the information should enable experienced researchers to replicate your study (American Psychological Association, 2001:17).

#### The methodology section typically has the following sub-sections:

* Sampling (description of target population, research context and units of analysis; sampling; and respondent profile)
* Data collection
* Measures (Alternatively: Measurement)

## Results

#### The results section summarizes the data collected for study in the form of descriptive statistics and also reports the results of relevant inferential stastically analysis (e.g., hypothesis tests) conducted on the data. You need to report the results in sufficient detail so that the reader can see which stasticall analyses were conducted and why, and to justify your conclusions. Mention all relevant results, including those that are at odds with the stated hypotheses (American Psycho;ogy Association 2001: 20).

#### There is no fixed recipe for presenting the findings of a study. We will, therefore, first consider general guidelines and then turn our attention to options for reporting descriptive statistics and the results of hypothesis test.

##### Reporting Research Results

#### You should present your findings as concisely as possible and still provide enough detail to properly justify your conclusions, as well as enable the reader to understand exactly what you did in terms of data analysis and why. You may assume that the reader has a working knowledge of basic statistics (i.e., typically the contents covered in a 1st statistics course). It is, therefore, not necessary to discuss basic statistical procedures in detail. You may, however, haveto explain advanced multivariate statistical methods (e.g., repeated measures ANOVA, two- or –way ANOVA, multiple regression analysis and factor analysis) in nen-technical terms. Figures and Tables (detached from main of manuscript) often allow one to present findings in a clear and concise manner.

#### Example:

#### Table 1: Title...................

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 2 | Column 2 |
| Abcde1 | 0.xxx | 0.xxx1 | 0.xxx2 |
| Abcde2 | 0.yyyy | 0.yyyy1 | 0.yyyy2 |
| Abcde3 | 0.zzz | 0.zzz1 | 0.zzz2 |

#### Figure 1. Title...................

## DISCUSSION

#### In many ways, is the most important section in an article (Feldman, 2004:4). Because it is the last thing a reader sees, it can have a major impact on the reader’s perceptions of the article and of the research conducted (Summers 2001:411).

#### Different authors take different approaches when writing the discussion section. Acording to Feldman (2004:5), Perry et al. 2003: 658), and Summers 2001: 411412), the discussion section should:

#### Restate the study’s main purpose

#### Reaffirm the importance of the study be restating its main contributions

#### Summarize the results in relation to each stated research objective or hypothesis without introducing new material

#### Relate the findings back to the literature and to the results reported by other researches

#### Provide possible explanations for unexpected or non-significant findings

#### Discuss the managerial implications of the study

#### Highlight the main limitations of the study that could influence its internal and external validity

#### Discuss insightful (i.e., non-obvious) directions or opportunities for future research on the topic

#### The discussion section should not merely restate the findings reported in the result section or report aditional findings that have not been discussed earlier in the article. The focus should rather be on highlighting the broader implications of the study;s findings and relating these back to prvious research. Make sure that the conclusions you reach follow logically from and are substaintiated by the evidence presented in your study (Varadarajan 1996: 5).

## Conclusion

In this section, author present brief conclusions from the results of research with suggestions for advanced researchers or general readers. A conclusion may review the main points of the paper, do not replicate the abstract as the conclusion.

Not only do author write down the major flaws and limitations of the study, which can reduce the validity of the writing, thus raising questions from the readers (whether, or in what way), the limits in his studies may have affected the results and conclusions. Limitations require critical judgment and interpretation of their impact. The author should provide the answer to the question: is this a problem with error, method, validity, and or otherwise?

#### Writing an academic article is a challening, but very fulfilling, endeavor. Hopefully the guidelines presented here will enable you to write your first academic article with relative ease. Students, however, often underestimate the time required to produce a “poished” first effort. You cannot write a proper research article in a weeekend or even in aweek. It is, therefore, extremely important to allow yourself enough time –at least three to four weeks—to work on the successive draft.

## References

Each manuscript must include a reference list containing only the quoted work.

###### Leedy, P. D., and J. E. Omrod. 2005. *Practical Research: Planning and Design* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merril Prentice Hall.

###### Perry , C., D. Carson, and A. Gilmore. 2003. Joining conversation: Writing for EJM’s editors, reviewers and readers requires planning, care and persistence. *European Journal of Marketing* 37 (5/6): 653-557.

###### Summers, J. O. 2001. Guideline for conducing research and publishing in marketing: From conceptualization through the review process. *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science* 29 (4): 405-415.

###### Feldman, D. C. 2004. The devil is in the details: Converting good research into publishable articles. *Journal of Management* 30 (1): 1-6.