

Research Paper Checklists

(adopted from Lisa Baglione)

RESEARCH QUESTION AND THESIS

- Your research question is clear, focused, and concise
- Other scholars in your field will find your research compelling
- My research question is doable
- Requires more than a Google search to answer; not a yes or no question
- There is only one way to interpret it; not at all ambiguous
- Thesis statement answers your research question

LITERATURE REVIEW

- An interesting title
- Includes more than one viewpoint or school of thought
- Makes significant connections between your research and prior research
- Indicates questions other researchers left unanswered
- Has its own introduction and conclusion, including your thesis
- Relates most significant prior research to your anticipated hypotheses

METHODOLOGY

- Has its own introduction and conclusion, including your thesis
- Hypotheses are clearly presented
- Hypotheses are testable
- A variable from each hypothesis is included in your thesis
- Clear description of how you operationalized your concepts into variables
- Includes a detailed description of the relationships between your variables
- Explains where your data came from
- Detailed, accurate description of specific test(s) you will perform
- Describe how testing each hypothesis will validate or invalidate it
- Explains why you chose this test and possible limitations associated with it

RESULTS/ ANALYSIS/ DISCUSSION

- Presented in a way that makes sense to the reader
- Charts and graphs are easy to understand
- Organizes evidence to reveal important findings related to focus
- Restates your thesis and/or hypotheses
- Importance of data and importance of thesis/hypotheses are obvious

CONCLUSION/ DISCUSSION

- Is a logical extrapolation from the findings
- Restates/ summarizes significant findings
- Reminds reader of topic, literature, thesis, and methods
- Discusses possible limitations
- Suggests areas for further research
- Explains the significance of the research for the relevant field
- Explains how research is useful in the real world

INTRODUCTION

- Provides necessary background information for the reader about topic
- Gives adequate context to understand what your research is
- Defines the terms used in the paper
- Is not too technical
- Gives brief insight into the rest of the paper