

# **Tips/Techniques for writing a research paper**

The second episode!

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# Intro:

- Different journals have different criteria/themes
- However, techniques/tips for writing a paper in any journals are similar.
- Today's talk is about general techniques for writing a research paper

**Writing a paper, where to start?**

# Where to start

- Figure out which parts of your study should be possible for a publication.
- Don't use the whole project, just some part or your work.

# Where to start

- Figure out, where to submit your paper
- Because, different journals have different formats, styles, themes.
- If the content of a paper does not match with the journal, **it will be rejected immediately regardless of how good is your work!**

# Where to start

- Plan/outline the structure of your paper
- Don't worry, just write all ideas you can figure out, when you write the detail, you still need to adjust later

**Insight into the structure of a paper**

**Look closer to the structure of a paper!**

# Structure of a paper

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- problems/purposes/research questions
- Methodology
  - Data collection
  - Analysis method
  - material
- results
- discussion
- Conclusion and further work
- Reference/appendix



# How to set a “title”

- Title: “the fewest possible words that adequately describe the whole paper”
- Why important?
  - It is read first!
  - Apart from key words, search engines (like Google, etc.) find titles too.
- The title is generally set at first, but it is usually changed in the end.

# How to set a “title”

- An effective title should:
  - Identify the main issue of the paper
  - Begin with the subject of the paper
  - Be accurate, specific and complete
  - Attract readers!

# How to write an “abstract”

- “A summary of the whole story of a paper”
- It’s very important as electronic publication databases provide abstracts to readers.
- Usually, consists of about 150-300 words

# How to write an “abstract”

- An effective abstract should:
  - cover research objectives
  - cover methods employed
  - cover results obtained
  - cover conclusion drawn
  - be very clear
  - Be easy for readers to understand

# How to write “Introduction”

- Guide the readers to current research in the field.
- Contains motivation, significance, importance etc. of the study
- Sometimes include literature review
- The last paragraph of a paper explain/state/outlining the structure of whole paper

# How to write “Research questions/purposes/objectives”

- This part could be included in the introduction at the last paragraph
- Can be separated to a new heading
- Good characteristics:
  - Should be stated clearly
  - Readers can find the answers to the research questions on the result section

# How to write “methodology”

- Make it easy for a reader to follow the story (make it well organized)
- Methodology
  - How did you do/analyze the research project?
  - Separate data collection
  - Separate data analysis
  - Something complicated or not much relevant should be written on the appendix section

# How to write “Results/discussion”

- State clearly what did you find out?
- Don't say everything about the results, but say something interesting to readers.
- Discussion could be included in this section, but can be also separated to a new subheading



# How to write “Conclusion”

- conclusion: summary what have you done in the paper
- Brief summary of the results
- State the importance of the study and how this study could be used by others (benefits)
- Compare/state briefly about your findings with the literature
- Perhaps, you could make several subheadings, so that it's easy for readers to understand

# How to write “Implications/further work”

- Implication: how could your findings be used by readers?/ how do the findings affect community?
- Further work: what could be done in order to make it better or your plan in the future
- Implication and further work could be combined with the conclusion
- However, they can be a separated subheading

# How to write “Reference/appendix”

- Generally, APA (American Psychological Association) style is used in Sci Edu journals
- All references shown on the reference section should be cited in the detail section of the paper
- Should cite papers from the journal we are submitting to.
- *Perhaps, could include papers of the editors of the journal too ;-)*

# How to make “Figures/Tables”

- Make it easy for readers to understand
- Generally, the figures/tables you’ve submitted are not good enough, we still need to make a new one looks better
- First impression is important for the reviewers.

# Some important issues

- Wording, use some wordings consistently; i.e., misconceptions/alternative/naïve conceptions?, sample/group etc.
- Different words may refer to different meanings

**What should we do before submission?**

# Format of a manuscript

- See how to make a manuscript before submission; e.g.,
  - Usually using double space
  - Not include authors, acknowledgement and anything which will indicate the authors (*because of blind reviews!*)
  - Even many references which have the same author (this indicate that who is the author)
- English- US or British?
  - Some journals require only US and some requires British

# Before submission

- Re-check your writing as much as you can (small mistake can make a big difference!).
- Contact experts (co-authors) and let them check/comment your paper.
- Send out your papers to your colleagues to get comments/suggestions



## Trick: How to deal with your English writing:

- Use Eng-Eng dictionary, it can help you better than Eng-Thai dictionary
- Use *thesaurus* dictionary to search synonyms of a word (this is important, even native speakers, they still need to use it sometimes)
- Thesaurus sources: [msn thesaurus/dictionary.com](#) etc.)
- Read a lot of papers similar theme to your paper, so that you will learn a lot of English writing.

# Summary: manuscript preparing process

**First stage:** - Set research questions/purposes  
- Figure out where to submit  
- Outline your paper

**Second stage:** - Write your paper and cooperate with the co-authors  
- Get comments from your colleagues  
- Revised/re-check

**Third stage:** - Preparing the final manuscript by matching with the format of the journal  
- Final version/ submit

**Thanks for you attention**

See you next time