

How to write an attractive introduction

Main objectives:

In order to build an attractive introduction, you are required to provide a **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** that leads to your present research. In doing so, the following questions must be answered:

- (i) What is the main task of your research?
- (ii) What was the previous research that inspired or motivated your present research?
- (iii) How does your present research significantly differ from the previous research?
- (iv) What is so special about your present research?

Note:

- (i) The introduction to be built is only preliminary. Continual modifications of the introduction are expected throughout the writing process.
- (ii) In writing about the historical background that leads to your present research, you should only focus on the previous research(s) that is/are **directly relevant** to your present research.
- (iii) While working on the following steps, you are encouraged (although not required) to interact with a peer writer in order to make your writing process more effective and fruitful.
- (iv) After completing all the following steps, there is a checklist to make sure that you have completed all the required tasks. Please ask your peer writer to go through the checklist with you.

Step by step guidance:

Please answer the following questions as clearly, specifically, and concisely as possible. Feel free to substitute any of the words or phrases in the blue color below (they were provided only to inspire your thoughts, not to replace them).

Step 1:

What is the main task of your research? Please answer the question in ONE sentence.

You may answer the question by beginning with: “The main focus of the present research lies in ...”

Step 2:

What was the previous research that inspired or motivated your present research? You may answer more than one previous research. Please specify (i) the name of the researcher(s), and (ii) research publication details. And if possible, specify why was the research carried out.

You may answer the question by beginning with: “The origin of this research can be traced back to [WHEN], when [WHO] published [WHAT RESEARCH], proposing that ... The purpose of [WHO]’s research was to ...”

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Step 3:

What was so special about the previous research? For instance, was it very successful in solving some particular problem? Or, did it achieve something that had never been achieved before?

You may answer the question by beginning with: “The most remarkable achievement of [WHO]’s research was a new solution/insight into ... ”

Step 4:

What was the major problem of the previous research? For instance, what was majorly wrong in the previous research? Or, what was the major problem that the previous research failed to solve? And if possible, explain briefly why it could not solve the problem. For instance, was it due to the limitation of the technology at that time?

You may answer the question by beginning with: “Although [WHO]’s theory was very powerful in explaining... it could not deal with...”

Step 5:

Taking the defect of the previous research into account, what is special about your research? This is a very important step. It helps you to highlight the specialty and originality of your research. For instance, what have your research achieved whereas others have not?

You may answer the question by beginning with: “To tackle the problem confronted by the previous research, we are proposing a solution that ... ”

Step 6:

How are you planning to carry out your research? Please list your overall plan to implement your research.

You may answer the question by beginning with: “In particular, our research will be implemented in the following way: In section 2 we shall do [WHAT 1]. In section 3 we shall do [WHAT 2]. In section 4 ... Finally we shall ... ”

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Introduction (overall format):

Paragraph 1 [Attractive beginning]

{Think of an attractive beginning using ONE of the following: (i) Startling information, (ii) Anecdote, (iii) Dialogue, (iv) Definition}

Paragraph 2 [Main research focus]

The main focus of the present research lies in ...

Paragraph 3 [Origin of your research]

The origin of this research can be traced back to [WHEN], when [WHO] published [WHAT RESEARCH], proposing that ... The purpose of [WHO]'s research was to ... The most remarkable achievement of [WHO]'s research was a new solution/insight into ...

Paragraph 4 [Problem of the previous research]

However, although [WHO]'s theory was very powerful in explaining... it could not deal with...

Paragraph 5 [Specialty and originality of your research]

To tackle the problem confronted by the previous research, we are proposing a solution that ...

Paragraph 6 [Overall implementation plan of your research]

In particular, our research will be implemented in the following way: In section 2 we shall do [WHAT 1]. In section 3 we shall do [WHAT 2]. In section 4 ... Finally we shall ...

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Introduction Check List

- (1) Is the length of your introduction about 10% of your entire paper? If not, why can't it?

- (2) Has your introduction provided the previous research that inspired or motivated your present research? If not, why not?

- (3) Has your introduction explained, by taking the previous research into account, why you carried out your present research? If not, why not?

- (4) Has your introduction demonstrated the originality of your present research by providing a significant contrast between the previous research and your research? If not, why not?

- (5) Has your introduction explained what is so special about your present research? If not, why not?