

A 10 Days Workshop: How to Write and Submit a Research Article

Lecture 2

Parts of a Research Article

Trainers

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Parts of a Research Article

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Related Work
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion and Future Work
- References

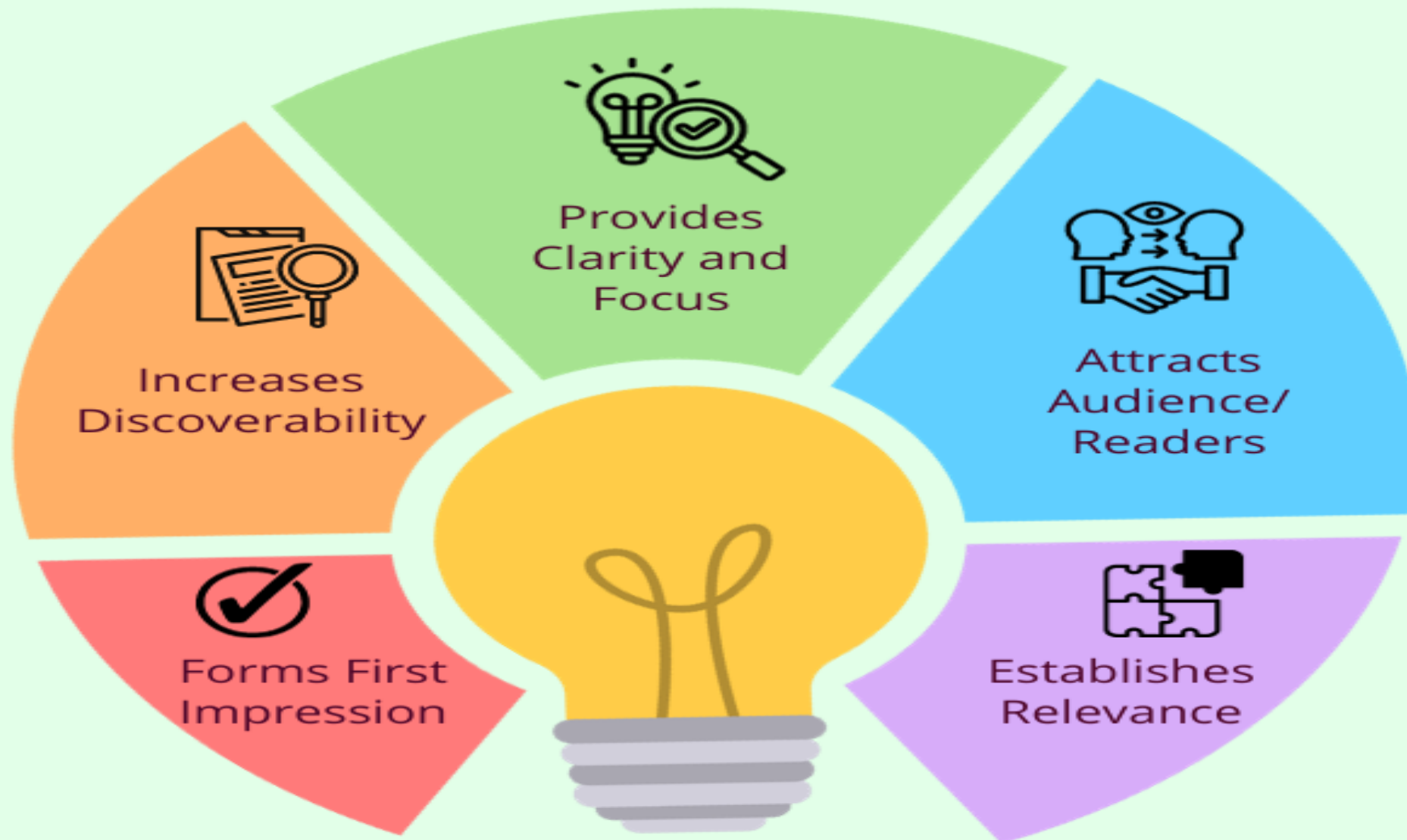
Tittle

The “title” should be descriptive, direct, accurate, appropriate, interesting, concise, precise, unique, and should not be misleading.

Types of Tittle:

- Descriptive Or Neutral Title
- Declarative Title
- Interrogative Title

Importance of a Research Title



Checklist for Drafting a Good Title for a Research Paper

- The title needs to be simple and direct
- It should be interesting and informative
- It should be specific, accurate, and functional (with essential scientific “keywords” for indexing)
- It should be concise, precise, and should include the main theme of the paper
- It should not be misleading or misrepresentative
- It should not be too long or too short (or mysterious)
- It should avoid mischievous or amusing words
- It should avoid nonstandard abbreviations and unnecessary acronyms (or technical jargon)

Continued...

- Title should be SPICED, that is, it should include Setting, Population, Intervention, Condition, End-point, and Design
- Place of the study and sample size should be mentioned only if it adds to the scientific value of the title
- Important terms/keywords should be placed in the beginning of the title
- Descriptive titles are preferred to declarative or interrogative titles
- Authors should adhere to the word count and other instructions as specified by the target journal

Examples

Title	Comment/remark on the contents of the title
Comparison of Pediatric Risk of Mortality III, Pediatric Index of Mortality 2, and Pediatric Index of Mortality 3 Scores in Predicting Mortality in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit	Long title (28 words) capturing the main theme; site of study is mentioned
A Prospective Antibacterial Utilization Study in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of a Tertiary Referral Center	Optimum number of words capturing the main theme; site of study is mentioned
Study of Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit	The words “study of” can be deleted

Continued...

Clinical Profile, Co-Morbidities & Health Related Quality of Life in Pediatric Patients with Allergic Rhinitis & Asthma

Benzathine Penicillin Prophylaxis in Children with Rheumatic Fever (RF)/Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD): A Study of Compliance

Optimum number of words; population and intervention mentioned

Subtitle used to convey the main focus of the paper. It may be preferable to use the important word “compliance” in the beginning of the title rather than at the end. Abbreviations RF and RHD can be deleted as corresponding full forms have already been mentioned in the title itself

Continued.....

Performance of PRISM (Pediatric Risk of Mortality) Score and PIM (Pediatric Index of Mortality) Score in a Tertiary Care Pediatric ICU

Abbreviations used. “ICU” may be allowed as it is a commonly used abbreviation. Abbreviations PRISM and PIM can be deleted as corresponding full forms are already used in the title itself

Awareness of Health Care Workers Regarding Prophylaxis for Prevention of Transmission of Blood-Borne Viral Infections in Occupational Exposures

Slightly long title (18 words); theme well-captured

Isolated Infective Endocarditis of the Pulmonary Valve: An Autopsy Analysis of Nine Cases

Subtitle used to convey additional details like “autopsy” (i.e., postmortem analysis) and “nine” (i.e., number of cases)

Continued...

Atresia of the Common Pulmonary Vein - A Rare Congenital Anomaly

Subtitle used to convey importance of the paper/rarity of the condition

Psychological Consequences in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Survivors: The Neglected Outcome

Subtitle used to convey importance of the paper and to make the title more interesting

Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease: Clinical Profile of 550 patients in India

Number of cases (550) emphasized because it is a large series; country (India) is mentioned in the title - will the clinical profile of patients with rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease vary from country to country? May be yes, as the clinical features depend on the socioeconomic and cultural background

Continued...

Neurological Manifestations of HIV Infection

Short title; abbreviation “HIV” may be allowed as it is a commonly used abbreviation

Krabbe Disease - Clinical Profile

Very short title (only four words) - may miss out on the essential keywords required for indexing

Experience of Pediatric Tetanus Cases from Mumbai

City mentioned (Mumbai) in the title - one needs to think whether it is required in the title

Abstract

- The “abstract” needs to be simple, specific, clear, unbiased, honest, concise, precise, stand-alone, complete, scholarly, (preferably) structured, and should not be misrepresentative.
- The abstract is an independent and stand-alone (that is, well understood without reading the full paper) section of the manuscript



Medium-sized group of readers



Deeper engagement with your work and citations

WHEN

It is suggested to write an abstract when the rough draft of the research paper is completed.

WHAT

Abstract is an summary of an research paper

Abstract



WHY

Abstract is written to get a brief understanding of whole research paper

HOW

Abstract is written either in structured or unstructured format in descriptive way or in an informative way.

Features of abstract

Background and/or Objectives:

This states why the work was undertaken and is usually written in just a couple of sentences. The hypothesis/study question and the major objectives are also stated under this subheading.

Methods:

This subsection is the longest, states what was done, and gives essential details of the study design, setting, participants, blinding, sample size, sampling method, intervention/s, duration and follow-up, research instruments, main outcome measures, parameters evaluated, and how the outcomes were assessed or analyzed.

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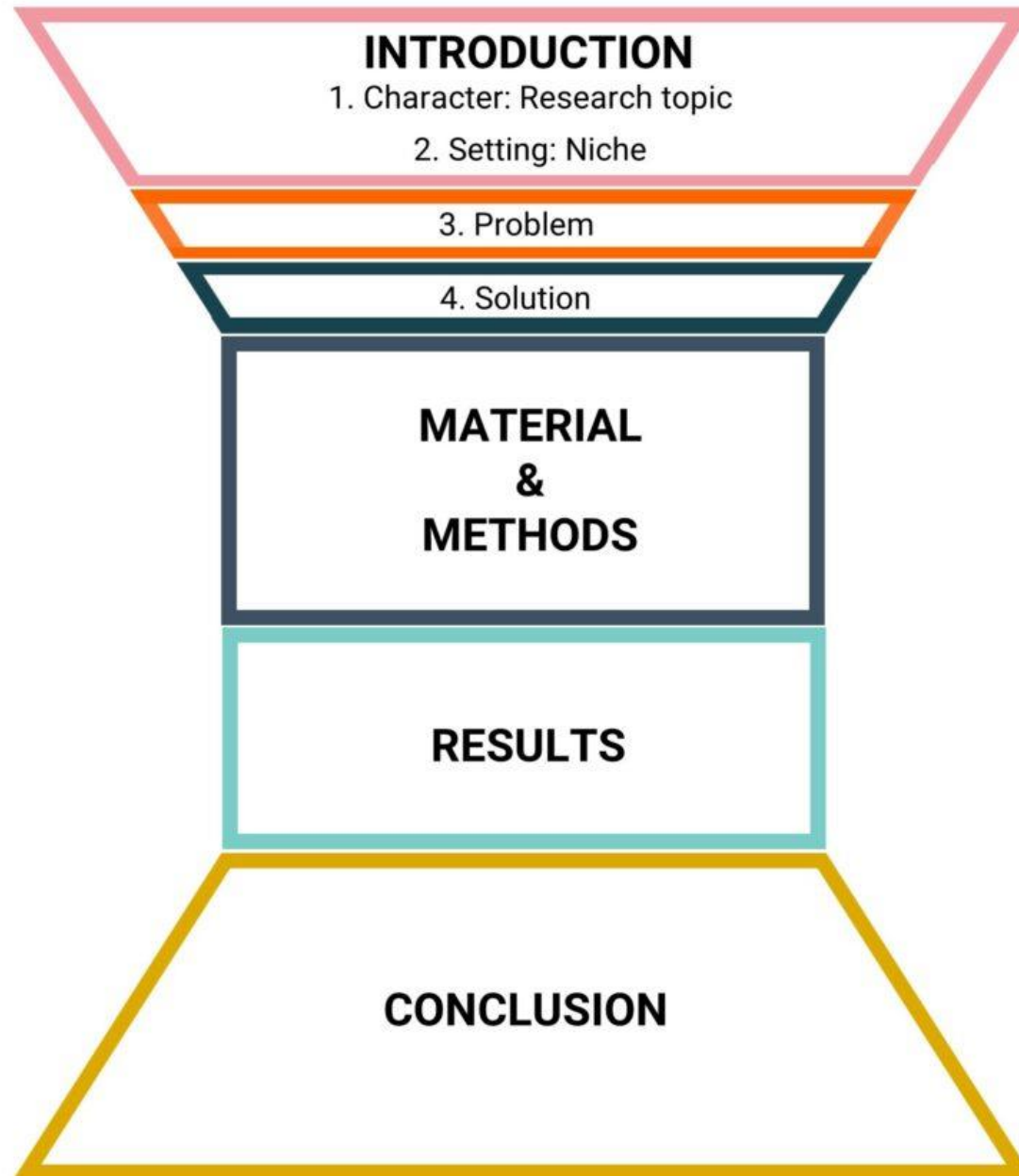
Results/Observations/Findings:

This subheading states what was found, is longer, is difficult to draft, and needs to mention important details including the number of study participants, results of analysis (of primary and secondary objectives), and include actual data (numbers, mean, median, standard deviation, “P” values, 95% confidence intervals, effect sizes, relative risks, odds ratio, etc.).

Continued...

Conclusions:

The take-home message (the “so what” of the paper) and other significant/important findings should be stated here, considering the interpretation of the research question/hypothesis and results put together (without overinterpreting the findings) and may also include the author's views on the implications of the study.



Opening
Challenge

Action

Climax

Resolution

Drafting a Suitable Abstract

- Stick to the instructions to authors (format, word limit, font size/style, and subheadings) provided by the journal for which the abstract and the paper are being written.
- Avoid passive voice
- Get rid of redundant words and edit the abstract (extensively) to the correct word count permitted
- Abbreviations should be avoided in an abstract, unless they are conventionally accepted or standard; references, tables, or figures should not be cited in the abstract

