

505/506: Research Writing

**A UW SSW Writing Center Workshop
Winter 2021**

Workshop Guidelines

- Interact through the chat box or unmute yourself
- We will be recording the first part of this workshop for those who could not attend
- The presentation will be followed by a Q & A session
- Please share your full name, program (Day, EDP Weekend, EDP Evening, etc.), and year (1, 2, 3, etc.) in the chat box for us to complete or cross-reference with your registration information
 - You can also rename yourself to include your pronouns
- For closed captioning: Click “Live transcript” → “Show subtitle”



Disclaimer

- Always refer to your instructor for final say in structure, expectations, and due dates!



Workshop Overview

- Structure of Paper
- Formatting
- Language
- Content
- Resources



How are you feeling about the 505/506
research project right now?

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



Structure of Paper

Sections of a Research Paper

- **Title and Abstract**: The gist of the paper
- **Introduction** (including literature review): What is the research question, and how does it fit in current lit?
- **Methods**: How the study was performed. Depends on research question
- **Results**: Present the data collected
- **Discussion**: Examine the data collected, and discuss how it compares to other researchers' data
- **Conclusion**: Summarize with main points, outline implications, and areas for future study



505: Paper Structure

- **Title and Abstract**: The gist of the paper
- **Introduction** (including literature review): What is the research question, and how does it fit in current lit?
- **Methods**: How the study *will be* performed. Type of design, sample, measurement. Cite the textbook!
- **Discussion**: Discuss potential limitations, and reliability and internal/external validity considerations
- **Conclusion**: Summarize with main points, outline social work implications, and areas for future study
- **References**



506: Paper Structure

- **Title and Abstract**: The gist of the paper
- **Introduction** (including literature review): What is the research question, and how does it fit in current lit?
- **Methods***: How the study *was* performed. Research design, sample, data collection & analysis. Cite the textbook!
- **Results***: Present the data *collected* in narrative form
- **Discussion**: Examine the data collected, and discuss how it compares to other researchers' data
- **Conclusion**: Summarize with main points, outline implications, and areas for future study
- **References**
- **Tables & Figures***
- **Appendix***: Measures, Interview Guide, Data Collection Tools



Formatting



Formatting Headings

Level	Format
1	Centered, Boldface, Title Case Heading Text starts a new paragraph.
2	Flush Left, Boldface, Title Case Heading Text starts a new paragraph.
3	<i>Flush Left, Boldface Italic, Title Case Heading</i> Text starts a new paragraph.
4	Indented, Boldface, Title Case Heading Ending With a Period. Paragraph text continues on the same line as the header.
5	<i>Indented, Boldface Italic, Title Case Heading Ending With a Period.</i> Paragraph text continues on the same line as the header.

APA Formatted Tables

Include:

- Table #
- Title (in italics)
- Subheadings
- Notes

****Note: APA formatted tables do not usually have vertical gridlines***

Table 1

Wood the Woodchucks Chucked in Experiment 1

Woodchuck	Wood chucked (in kg)	%
1	423.9	94.2
2	373.0	82.9
4	347.0	77.1
6	411.3	91.4

Note. Each virtual woodchuck received a 450-kg woodpile. Woodchucks 3 and 5 were removed from the analysis because they would not chuck wood.

Table 2

Title

Header

<u>Subhead</u>	<u>Column Head</u>	<u>Column Head</u>	<u>Column Head</u>
Row 1	123	234	17.6
Row 2	456	567	31.1
Row 3	789	891	51.3
Row 4	1368	1692	

Language

Language Norms

Language of research is influenced by the values inherent in American Standard Academic English:

- Direct, concise, formal, “objective”

Check out previously submitted SSW theses in the UW Library Collection to get a sense of research-style writing:

<https://digital.lib.washington.edu/researchworks/handle/1773/4968>



Language in Research

- The language of research papers is:
 - Direct, concise, focused on topic
 - Formal, dry, “boring”
 - “Objective”
 - Heavy on paraphrasing and summarizing
- The language of research papers is NOT:
 - Poetic, “flowery”, full of metaphors/analogies
 - Casual, informal
 - “Biased”, subjective
 - Heavy on direct quotes (in your lit review)



Points of View (POV)

- Research writing does use first and third person POV
- Research writing does not use second person POV
- Points of view in writing refer to the subject (person or thing) performing a verb, or “doing the thing”

Singular (one)

1st Person

I

2nd Person

You

3rd Person

They/He/She, It, a Name

Plural (more than one)

We

You, Y'all

They, some Names

W

When to Use POVs

- Research writing generally utilizes a third-person (they) POV throughout
- Instructors will likely have different preferences
- Maintaining internal consistency throughout your paper may be preferable to alternating POVs



Example Phrases


- This research project will answer...
 - To answer this question, I will explore...
- Previous research has demonstrated...
- Some researchers have stated...
- However, researchers now understand...
- There is a lack of research related to...
- The results indicate...
- The findings demonstrate...
- The evidence suggests...
- These studies illustrate...




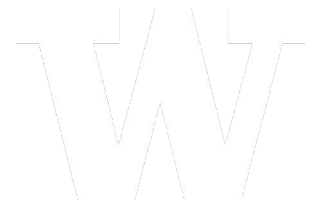
Content

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What is your research project about? (In a few words)



 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



Developing an Argument

Your argument consists of what you are asking, why it is important, and the context you provide

Set up your argument in the introduction section:

- Frame your issue by providing background information from past research
- Identify a gap in the literature
- Present your question, link to the lit. review

Answer: Why is this research project valid, plausible, relevant, and important?



Defining Your Research Question

Qualitative

- Begin with words such as, “How,” “What,” or “Why”
- Tell the reader what you are attempting to discover, generate, explore, identify, or describe
- Ask, “What happened?” to help craft your description
- Ask, “What was the meaning to people of what happened?” to understand your results
- Ask, “What happened over time?” to explore the process

Quantitative

- Begin with words such as “How much,” “How many,” “Who,” “When,” or “What”
- Is it descriptive, comparative, and/or relationship-based?
- Identify the different types of variables you are trying to measure, as well as any groups you may be interested in



Literature Review

Your literature review should:

- Contextualize your research by presenting existing information on, or relevant to, your topic
- Synthesize information, not just summarize
- Show why your research paper matters

Highlight a gap in research — THAT is why your paper is important.

- Basically, “Previous research shows X, but not Y, so this paper will explore...”



Talking About Literature

Literature reviews summarize and synthesize what existing research has done or shown. Paint a broad strokes overview.

This is primarily done by:

- Stating what we know
- Paraphrasing, very few direct quotes
- Speaking generally of research, not getting into all of the nitty-gritty of each research study and its methods
- Grouping together existing research (integrative summary)
- In-text citations with more than one reference

Try to reference the most current research

*Exception: seminal articles (foundational to a field)



Citing Multiple Sources

- A strategy for crediting multiple sources for one idea is called *integrative summary*. This is a helpful strategy when covering a large amount of research in your literature review.
- **In-Text Citation**: Include the author and year of publication for each source, separated by a semicolon (;) and ordered alphabetically (as they would appear on your references page)
 - (Brief, 2020; Ghosh, 2020; Paulson-Smith, 2020)

Discussion

- **Summarize your results:** Answer your research question
 - This section isn't meant to be redundant to your results section. Focus on interpretation. Do not introduce new findings here.
- **Critically analyze your findings:** Connect your research to previous literature. Where did your findings converge or diverge?
- **Consider alternative explanations**
- **Strengths & weaknesses:** Were there limitations to your procedures or threats to validity?
- **Implications:** Social work policy, practice, and/or programs
- **Suggestions for future research:** Be specific



Resources

Writing Support at UW

School of Social Work Writing Center

- Check out the Writing Center website to make an appointment and find helpful tips and resources: socialwork.uw.edu/students/services/writing-support
- Email sswwrite@uw.edu for any questions!
- Upcoming Events:
 - Drop-In Advising with Hunter & Kylie - Thursday, Mar. 4th from 5-6:30 pm
 - Weekend Writing Circle - Sunday, Mar. 7th from 12-2 pm

The Writing Team

Kylie Brief
(she/her)



Booking Calendar:

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Other Resources

- **Odegaard Writing & Research Center:** Book Appointments at depts.washington.edu/owrc/signup.php
- **Purdue OWL:** owl.purdue.edu
- **APA Style:** apastyle.apa.org
- **Social Work Library Research Guide for 505/506:** guides.lib.uw.edu/hsl/sw505

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How are you feeling about your 505/506 research project now?

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Q & A

References

- Bailey, J., Epstein, M., & La Fazia, D. (2021). *Presenting your research* [PowerPoint presentation]. University of Washington, SOC W 506.
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