

## *Tips and Instructions on Research Paper Sections*

### **The Introduction**

Creating an interesting opening for any paper is difficult, but perhaps more so for a formal research paper. It can be done and it should be done because the introduction is the most important section of a research paper. Not only does it have to compel the reader to dig in, but it also has to accomplish the following criteria: "The introduction should be clear and concise, preview the content of the paper and express your thesis statement"(Fuller, 2012). Below are several ways to begin a research paper - do not be afraid to try one.

#### **1. Ask a Question...**

Questions make readers feel included in the paper. Write the question in 3rd person - do not speak directly to the reader(Fuller 2012). Instead of asking, "Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a Physical Therapist?", use a more academic approach such as, "How do Physical Therapists affect the lives of their patients?"

#### **2. Tell a Story...**

A short anecdote or story pulls readers into the topic emotionally. Tell a dynamic story to interest and intrigue your audience. For example, in a career or college research paper, relate a story about the origins of the occupation or college(Fuller 2012).

#### **3. Set the Scene...**

According to Erin Fuller, ehow editor, "Creating a vivid initial image is an effective method to use in an introduction because many people react strongly to visual images"(2012). Try creating a clear image of a day in the life of a Chef, or describing a college campus and its surroundings by using colorful language, descriptive phrases and sensory details to paint a picture for the readers.

#### **4. Present Startling Facts or Statistics...**

Using a surprising fact or statistic can create a powerful introduction because a fascinated reader is enticed into reading more. Accurate and cited research will be necessary to use this form of introduction. A surprising fact about the training a Firefighter must go through, or a statistic about the number of multi-millionaire Taxidermists located in Ohio could be a winning way to begin an introduction.

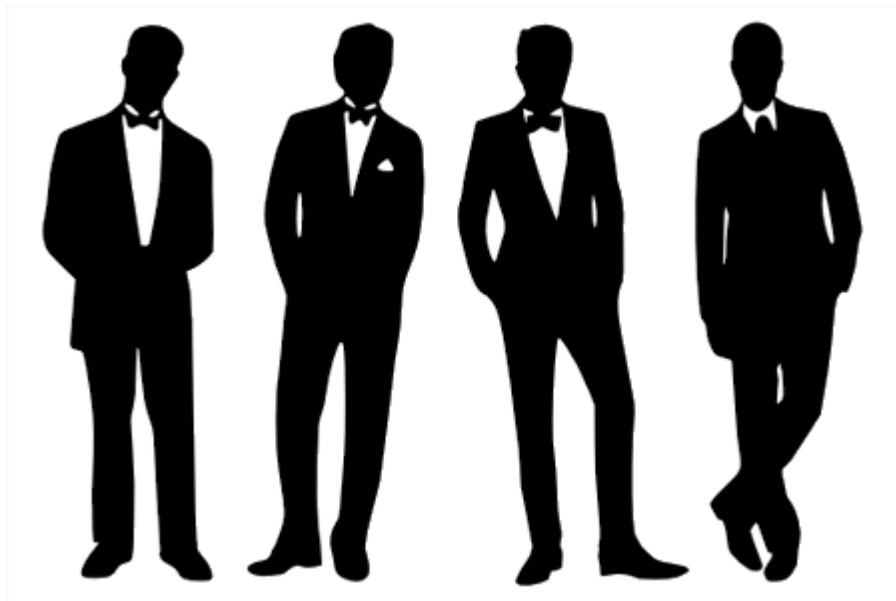
## *Tips and Instructions on Research Paper Sections*

### **How to Write an Abstract in APA Format**

The Abstract is meant to give a concise overview of what will be found in the body of the paper - it is the entire paper in a nutshell - think, "Super Summary". It should not go into great detail, but it should include the key points that are covered. Anyone reading the abstract of a research paper could quickly see what the paper covers. \*\*\*It is best to write the abstract last - after the paper is completed(Vitanza, 2012).

#### **Don't forget...**

- **the abstract is limited to 150-250 words**
- **it has a page all to itself**
- **it is titled, Abstract and this word is centered**
- **block style is used - do not indent at the beginning**
- **See page 50 in your APA Style Guide**



## *Tips and Instructions on Research Paper Sections*

### **Writing a Winning Conclusion**

Finally! The paper is finished. Take some time to craft a memorable ending for the paper; it is the last chance to make an impact and leave the reader with a clear picture of the topic. The conclusion ties it all together and gives the audience a sense of completeness. Several different versions might be written before finding the “right” one. With just a few straightforward steps, a compelling conclusion can be written for any type of paper(Pennybaker, 2011).

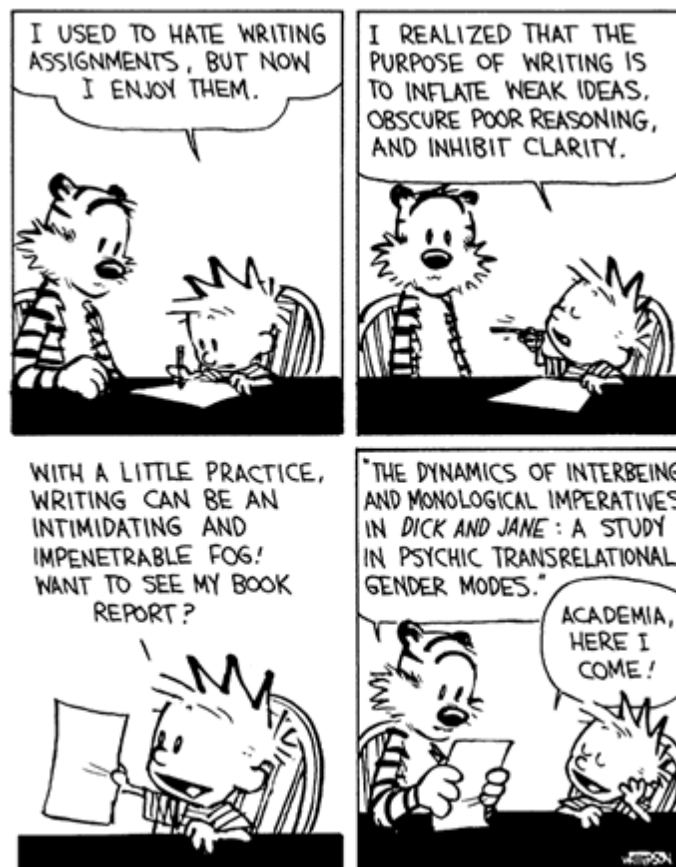
#### **Try one of these techniques to write a winning conclusion...**

1. State the most important idea of your paper. Do not simply regurgitate your thesis, but “synthesize the content of your paper and present the overarching theme for the reader to take away “(Beredjick, 2011).
2. Come full circle in your conclusion by returning to a compelling or provocative point that was made in the introduction. This technique works especially well if a question was asked in the introduction(Wroblewski, 2011).
3. Try ending with a series of hypothetical or rhetorical answers. This technique gives readers ideas to think about, which is a sign of a strong and insightful concluding paragraph(Wroblewski, 2011).
4. Use a quotation that captures the point if the “right” words are elusive. Sites such as [The Quotations page](#) offer quotes by famous (and non-famous) people, organized by subject. (Wroblewski, 2011).
5. “Provide an anecdote, a short meaningful story, that encapsulates the main points of your paper and leaves a lasting impression on the readers”(Wroblewski, 2011).
6. Repeat the main points and their significance in a fresh new way. Briefly summarize each point and comment on how they connect to the thesis. Include a line or two on why they are important(Wroblewski, 2011).
7. The last line of your conclusion is sometimes called the "clincher." This sentence should be strong, confident and to the point. The line should remind the reader why the paper and subject are important(Wroblewski, 2011).

## *Tips and Instructions on Research Paper Sections*

### **Tips & Miscellaneous Reminders**

- Avoid using words such as “in conclusion,” “to conclude” or “in summary” in the concluding paragraph. Readers can obviously see that they have reached the end of the paper and do not need to be notified.
- Proofread and edit your piece for clarity and unity of ideas. Read it aloud; then ask someone you trust to read it and provide a critique.
- Do not add new research to the concluding paragraph!



- Remember, do not confuse formal with wordiness.
- Avoid using contractions, slang, jargon and colloquial language.
- Do not address the reader directly with the word “you”
- Use replacement words such as “people/person”, “one”, “individual” or use the occupation title - Accountants, Welders, Registered Nurses etc.
- Give credit to the writer or article from which information was taken by using in-text citations within the body of the paper(Smith, 2009).