

REPORT WRITING FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH: A GUIDE



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CHAPTER FIVE

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

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Introduction

Writing a research work can be very stressful but as you go deeper into writing it, it becomes easier. Like every form of writing, research papers have formats that you must follow to enable you to write one that is worthy of Nobel recognition. The conclusions and recommendations are an essential part of research papers and also, mark the end of a research paper. Both must be taken seriously as they are the very last impression you leave in the minds of your readers. They have the ability to add beauty and technicality to your piece of writing. No matter how much or how best you have written other chapters of your paper, it wouldn't matter if your conclusion or recommendation lacks soul. The summary, conclusion and recommendations are the last part of the research work. It is essential to have this in all research work, both qualitative and quantitative. When perusing a research work (thesis or research articles), the readers go directly to the summary, conclusion, and recommendation and see if they could point out what the dissertation is saying because it is common in this chapter. It is important to note that the conclusion and recommendations may be combined or presented in separate sections depending on the type of research paper.

The gap in the literature identified in the introduction signifies what the scholars decided to look at, what they finally assert when their study is done. What did it inform them, and what they are teaching us about the matter? Did they get the expected outcomes? If so, why or why not? The thesis is likely to be a very logical and provisional assertion instead of a broad statement.

The Conclusions and Recommendations may be combined or, in long reports, presented in separate sections. If there are no recommendations to be made as a result of the project, just call this section Conclusions. The Conclusions section sums up the key points of your discussion, the essential features of your design, or the significant outcomes of your investigation. As its function is to round off the story of your project, it should:

- be written to relate directly to the aims of the project as stated in the Introduction

- indicate the extent to which the aims have been achieved
- summarise the key findings, outcomes or information in your report
- acknowledge limitations and make recommendations for future work (where applicable)
- highlight the significance or usefulness of your work.

The following steps will guide in write a good chapter five:

5.1 Introduction

In introducing the chapter the researcher must restate the purpose of the study and then describe very brief of what was done in the process of testing the hypotheses or research questions and collecting data. The introduction would state what is to be done in the present chapter; to summarize the results of the particular study, discuss its implications in relation to the existing knowledge and bring out its implications for further research.

Deducing from this explanation, the research has to bear the following:

- i. Restatement of the purpose of the study
- ii. Describe the process taken in collecting, analysing data and testing hypothesis where applicable
- iii. Summarize the results of study
- iv. Implication of the study to the existing knowledge
- v. Implication for further study.

5.2 Summary

This section is concern with the report of the findings in relation to all the research questions (or research hypothesis) investigated in the study. They are to be listed in the order they were stated in chapter one and the conclusion reached in relation to each would be stated. The purpose of this is to show the reader what the study found before the researcher discusses the implications of the results.

It is now time to go through each section and highlight the critical statements. What information does the reader have to fully comprehend the article's central argument or inference? Remember that a summary does not necessitate rephrasing every single line of the article. The idea is to identify the main elements while excluding any background knowledge or optional information. A summary of findings reveals and summarises the most critical factors and outcomes of a study, including the best theoretical boundaries and the finality of the substantiation for each result. It

tells the reader what has been done, how it has been done, and the study results. An engaging summary of findings allows the readers to see as many or more minor findings and just about relevant data about each result, see effect estimates presented in various ways, and view clarifications of the evidence supplied.

5.3 Conclusions

The conclusion section of a research paper focuses on discussing the essential features and the significant outcomes of your research. It highlights to your readers the importance of your research to them after they have read through it. It also serves as a round off to the story in your research. The conclusion should be written in relation to the introduction in your research paper. This means that your conclusion should be written in such a way that it relates to the aims of the research paper.

After analysing the literature, the conclusion should aid in understanding why the study is essential to them. A conclusion is a synthesis of critical elements, not just a description of the points or a re-statement of the problem statement. For most research studies, one well-developed paragraph suffices as a conclusion. However, a two- or three paragraph conclusion may be considered necessary in some situations. It is vital to include a conclusion in a thesis, journal article or dissertation to inform the readers of the strength and effect of the assertions in the study. Concluding statements in a thesis can also aid in refocusing the reader's attention on the quality statements and verifiable details of the research. Conclusions can also form a foundation for further research, generate new ideas to address an issue raised in the thesis or propose novel approaches to a problem. Consider the steps below to help you get started when writing the conclusion of your study:

1. Restate the research topic.
2. Reiterate the objective of the study.
3. Make a summary of the main points.
4. Mention the relevance or outcomes.
5. Wrap up your thoughts.

Similarly, one is advised to avoid certain issues that can dampen the effectiveness of a conclusion. They include the following:

1. Inability to be concise.
2. Inability to make a statement on more significant, more important issues.

3. Failure to expose problems leads to adverse outcomes.
4. Inability to provide a brief overview of what was observed.
5. Failure to align the research aim and objectives.
6. Refrain from apologizing.

The researcher will draw conclusions based only on the facts that came out of the study. This is by showing how the data has either supported or confirmed the hypothesis by the study. This will then be related to the original research question and any generalisation must not go beyond what the data can support. A good example of a conclusion should read like:

- i. *Teachers who study Primary Education perform better in implementing primary school curriculum than teachers who study general education.*
- ii. *Pupils were more satisfied with and preferred primary specialist teachers, both in the classroom instructions and extracurricular activities.*

Here are a few steps to follow to enable you write a good conclusion for your work.

1. ***Find logical connections:*** The conclusion should summarize your work. Don't begin a new idea in this section. You should restate main points, and provide a basic synthesis for them. This means that you should find a logical connection between your aims, objectives or hypothesis to your conclusions. This will ensure that your conclusion doesn't sound like a single thought to your readers or sound different from what was discussed throughout the work. When you are able to draw logical connections to previous ideas stated in your work, you leave your readers with a lasting impression.
2. ***Ensure your conclusion is linked to your introduction:*** The best structure for a conclusion in a work is to draft your conclusion in such a way that it links back to your introduction and your introduction links back to it, just like a perfect cycle. This can be done by restating the question asked in the introduction. But in this section, you would be providing an answer that your readers can understand. This is the same method used in short stories, when the writer leaves you guessing at the start and then tells you all you need to know at the very end of the story.
3. ***Don't forget logic:*** It is ok to have opposing points in your work. However, it is solely your duty to ensure that your readers are not left confused as a result of the opposing points. Your conclusion is the perfect place to tell your readers your opinion on the issues highlighted in your work. All the questions that were unanswered or partially answered in your work should

be answered in your conclusion. If at this point you can't give a clear answer to those questions, let your readers know what further research is needed or the future actions that would provide a clear answer to the questions. Restate your thesis statement, let your readers know if you still believe it or a new finding has caused you to think otherwise.

4. ***Let the readers draw their own conclusions:*** Note that this approach is inappropriate in some types of works. However, it is accepted mostly in works on social or political issues. In this method, you ask your readers the question instead of providing them with answers. The questions asked must be centered on the purpose of the paper.
5. ***Give recommendations:*** If you choose to merge your conclusion and recommendation into one section, then now is the time to state your recommendation.

5.4 Implication of the Study

Though this may not be included in some studies but where necessary researchers should show the implication of the findings especially in relation to known facts. Are the findings consistent with theory or not? If they are not, what are the reasons and implications of the disagreements? Example of implication are:

1. *This study indicated that boys and girls achieve equally well for the two units whether their teachers used pupil-centred or teacher-centred techniques. This may imply that we should look more carefully at the considerable volume of materials which implies that pupil-centred instruction produces greater achievement than teacher-dominated methods.*
2. *Students who have identified behavioural challenges, including aggression, should have up-to-date behaviour intervention plans (BIPs). These plans should be driven by functional behavioural assessments and describe the scope and substance of classroom and school wide positive behavioural supports. The BIP must be communicated to all staff members who routinely interact with the student, and its content should be followed and modified as necessary. Failure to maintain and follow the BIP deprives the student of entitled support and can leave a school open to legal problems in the event of a serious incident.*

5.5 Recommendations

You may have already created suggestions for future studies in the discussion, but the recommendation is a great place to explain, taking into account the potential ramifications of your research results for practice and theory. The recommendations should be premised on the conclusions of the study.

Specific instances

1. Predicated on these conclusions, teachers should consider... Additional researches could address...
2. Further research is necessary to confirm the causative factors of/effects of/relationship between...
3. Conceptual and practical ideas of cognitive restructuring technique should be carefully utilized in order to meet up to the challenge of remediating proneness to violent behaviour among students.

Thus, a researcher should avoid overstating the practicability of the study. If you're making policy, business, or other policy implications, it's best to structure them as suggestions instead of instructions. Academic research aims to educate, demonstrate, and explore rather than to instruct. Make sure not to undermine the research carried out when making recommendations for additional research. Remember to always address limitations and suggest how they might be overcome in future work.

Recommendations are used to call for action or solutions to the problems you have investigated in your research paper. Your recommendations highlight specific solutions and measures to be implemented based on the findings of your research.

Here are a few guidelines to enable you to write a good recommendation for your research paper.

1. ***Should be concrete and specific:*** Avoid beating around the bush. You can choose to restate the problem and then explain specific measures that can be used to solve those problems. The solutions or call for action should be specific for the problems you have stated earlier. Do not introduce new questions or problems at this point.
2. ***The recommendations should connect to your conclusion:*** Your recommendation should logically support your conclusions and should be achievable. You should limit yourself to a few recommendations. It is possible that a single recommendation can be fitting for all your conclusions.
3. ***Explain how the solution you suggested can contribute to solving the problems you stated:*** You shouldn't just stop at putting down possible solutions. You should also explain how it can solve the problems highlighted in your research paper.

The conclusion and recommendation section in any research paper is very important. It tells the reader that he has come to the end of the paper. It also breaks down everything your research paper

discusses into more digestible chunks. As earlier stated, you should avoid introducing new information in your conclusion and recommendation.

A researcher must know that any recommendation must be strictly based on the findings of the study. A researcher justifies this by recommending further investigation of the implications resulting from the study. The researcher can recommend the extension of the study to encompass questions not asked. If the study has definite practical complications the researcher can recommend certain course of action (Sambo, 2005).

5.6 Recommendations/Suggestions for Further Study

Almost every research study concludes by encouraging other academics to continue the work by stating that more investigation is necessary on the topic. Nevertheless, please do not confuse this ruling with the thesis; it is merely a tradition. Frequently, the researchers offer detailed information about possible future research that might or can be undertaken in an attempt to make sense of the findings of their research.

Future studies may confirm, build on, or supplement your findings, but they should not be considered necessary to accomplish them. Highlight the contributions. Make sure the reader understands how the study has contributed to knowledge in the field in focus.

The suggestions for further study should address other areas that your study did not cover. That is, suggestions for further study should expand on the limitations and scope of your study.

Example: Similar studies should be carried out in relation to this study's variables by looking at other personal and/or social problems that are of utmost concern to the society like the issues of drug abuse and alcoholism, moral laxity, gangsterism, truancy etc. since the interventions have shown many possibilities of applicability.

Reference

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