



Preparing Paper for Submission to a Research Journal

Invited Zoom Talk for Kappa Omicron Nu
(KON) Induction Ceremony
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Home economist for 50 years

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Difference Between Student Paper and Student Research Paper

University Student

- Writing a term paper to be submitted to your professor so it can be graded to determine if you have learned specific things from the course
- Very subjective (personal) in nature with only two parties involved, and they know each other's identity
- No one outside these two people ever sees the manuscript

University Student Researcher

- Writing a research report to be submitted to an editor who will share it with two or more peer reviewers. They will judge if it is worthy of being added to the profession's knowledge base in a journal available to the world
- Very objective (impersonal) in nature with several parties involved but most not knowing who the others are (called double-blind review)

Intent of Assessment

University Student Paper Submitted to Professor

- Able to demonstrate to professor varying degrees of competence in course-related theory, principles, concepts, and competencies
- Lesser marks allotted for referencing, punctuation, grammar, composition (sentence construction, syntax) and so on; no plagiarism allowed
- Final decision is reflected in an Alpha grade (A+ to F); sometimes Pass/Fail

University Student Paper Submitted to Journal

- Able to convince editor and reviewers that you are able to rigorously design, conduct, and report research; no plagiarism allowed
- Final editorial decision is one of:
 - Accept with no revisions
 - Accept with minor revisions*
 - Accept with major revisions
 - Reject

Difference Between Student Paper and Student Research Paper fini

UNIVERSITY STUDENT PAPER

Normally no primary or secondary research (but does happen)

- Primary – collect data from scratch
- Secondary – analyze existing data

Usually a basic paper containing:

- Introduction (research topic and your particular interest, often determined by the professor)
- Review of the literature to show your professor that you are familiar with what others have said and done on the topic and your thoughts on it
- Discussion and Conclusions
- Reference List

UNIVERSITY STUDENT RESEARCHER PAPER

- **Can be primary or secondary research, or it can be an argumentative essay:**

- think piece
- position paper
- discussion paper
- conceptual or theory paper

- **Reporting format varies with type of research:**

- Quantitative
- Qualitative
- Mixed Methods*
- Theoretical/conceptual paper
- Argumentative essay

Quantitative Research Report

- **Title, Abstract, and Keywords**
- **Introduction** (set things up)
 - Lead reader into the topic and then into the paper (i.e., make people *want* to keep reading)
- **Literature Review** (set things out)
 - What people have done already and how your research is different (gap being filled)
 - Ideally a section on theory or conceptual framework being used
 - **Hypotheses** (perhaps research questions)
- **Methods**
 - To obtain sample, collect data from it and analyze the data (which are numbers)
- **Results** (often tables and figures with your explanatory narrative)
 - Absolutely no discussion in this section – just clean presentation of results
- **Discussion points** (tease things out)
 - Key results to best address the hypotheses and what they mean relative to the literature; *normally*, no new literature is introduced
- **Conclusions** (wrap things up)
 - Key takeaways and sometimes recommendations (next steps and by whom)
- **References** (maybe acknowledgements and funding sources)

Qualitative Research Report

- **Title, Abstract, and Keywords**
- **Introduction** (set things up)
 - Lead reader into the topic and then the paper (make people *want* to keep reading)
- **Literature Review** (set things out)
 - Brief overview of what people have done already but bulk of review is introduced and used when interpreting the data
 - Maybe a section on theory being used, but qualitative research often generates a new theory that is grounded in the data
 - **Research questions**
- **Methods**
 - To get a sample, collect data from them and analyze the data (which are words)
- **Findings** (reported using both quotes and your interpretation of their words)
 - May also be a new theory (called grounded theory)
- **Discussion points** (tease things out)
 - Key findings and what they mean (often combined in one section with findings)
- **Conclusions** (wrap things up)
 - Key takeaways and sometimes recommendations (next steps and by whom)
- **References** (maybe acknowledgements and funding sources)

Criteria Editors and Reviewers Use to Judge a Paper's Quality

- **Well written** (sound logic, well reasoned, convincing argument, and technically correct); meets the word count
- **Abstract** – concise but very comprehensive overview of entire study
- **Literature** reviewed is quite recent, relevant, critically evaluated not just recounted, and effectively used to develop discussion points
- **Method** is reported in enough detail that someone can **replicate** an empirical study and **audit** the steps used in a qualitative study
- Empirical data (**results**) are valid, reliable, and generalizable; qualitative data (**findings**) are trustworthy, credible, dependable, and authentic
- Everything holds together – called internal consistency (**red thread**)
 - **Discussion** points tie directly back to the literature already reviewed. Use this literature to explain, justify or refute what you found. **Limitations** restrict what can be concluded
 - **Conclusions** (wrap up points) should not come out of the blue. They must relate to key outcomes reported in the paper
- **References** are cited properly given the citation style

More details in my book ([2018 Sage](#))

