

General Empirical Research Paper Structure for Students

- 1) Abstract/Overview
- 2) Introduction
 - a) What this research project is all about.
 - b) Why is it important
 - c) What you hoping to learn/discover
- 3) Review of Theory/Literature Review
 - a) Previous Knowledge on the topic
 - b) Doubts about the previous knowledge on the topic
 - c) Gaps in the previous knowledge on the topic
- 4) Research Questions
 - a) Your questions, that you have shown are un-addressed, poorly addressed or not answered by previous studies on the topic.
- 5) Methodology
 - a) How you will go about finding the answers to your questions.
 - b) Data collection technique: (e.g.: questionnaire survey, primary data collection, secondary data collection, published reports, interviews (structured, semi-structured, unstructured), etc.
 - c) Measurement technique: How your data will provide scales or measures for comparison.
 - i) Coding the published reports, using 5 point scales, weighing things on a scale, categorizing, etc.
 - d) Sample
 - e) Benefits and Limitations of this methodology
- 6) Results
 - a) Just the facts here. Report the data you collected and the measures on you scales
- 7) Findings
 - a) Discuss the facts here. Analyze the data and the measures in terms of you research questions.
- 8) Conclusions
- 9) References
- 10) Appendix