

Dr. S. Evans

www.ProfessorEvans.com

Parts of a research paper

Each discipline has specific guidelines for research protocol. Some steps listed below are not appropriate for some disciplines; some steps that you must take for a particular approach are not listed here. This is a general guideline; consult other sources within your field (and read dissertations in your area) to get a clear sense of the range of approaches to writing a proper research paper, thesis, or dissertation. Here is a basic guide:

Abstract

Introduction

Rationale for study

Questions being asked (focus, embedded in or generated by theory: objects or events)

Purpose of the study (phenomena of interest – concepts & record making)

Significance (value claims)

Theoretical framework

Writer's own thoughts and words about world views & philosophies

Review of relevant literature

(extensive background and analysis of what others have said)

Methodology

Subjects

Instruments

Techniques and procedures (step-by-step; IRB and ethics issues)

Hypotheses (must be clear enough to be replicable)

Results

Raw Data (facts of records: events or objects)

Tables

Figures (what was found, without interpretation)

Interpretations, Explanations, Generalizations

Conclusions

Discussion (Knowledge claims, new generalizations, value claims)

Implications for use

Limitations of study

Suggestions for further research

Contributions of this study (what it all means)

References

Cite Sources!!!

*** Also see "Are you on the KCAASE" worksheet