

Methods of Writing Research Papers

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Lecture One

Why Do Research?

Writing research papers is essential for academic members. This is because depending on academic textbooks alone is not enough to achieve the required aims of the educational process. It is very easy for even the members outside the academic realm to realize what is there with such educational textbooks. Therefore, those academic members must be directed towards wider aims other than those of instructing students to abide by the materials provided in the textbooks.

However, there are many reasons why do we write research papers. D. Lester (2015: 21-22) mentions some of them as follows:

1. Research Teaches Methods of Discovery

The main aim of writing research papers is to discover all related information about a certain topic that we are interested in. this is a good indication that we should not abide only by a specific textbook to repeat the same information along the semesters, i.e., “you will come to understand the different views on a subject”. In the final form of the research paper, one will arrive at a satisfied list of sources which reveal the different areas of discovery that has been visited.

2. Research Teaches Investigative Skills

Visiting the different sources in writing a research paper means that the researcher must depend on his investigative skills, “A research project requires you to investigate a subject, gain a grasp of its essentials, and disclose your findings”. Searching for references is not the only task of a researcher. Rather, the researcher should search only for those reliable sources to be included in his paper. Nowadays, searching for reliable sources is a tiresome job. The internet, for example, provides a sufficient bulk of references, but, it is the task of the researcher to investigate which ones of them are worthy to be used.

3. Research Develops Inquiry-Based Techniques

Any research paper is seen as a form of ‘inquiry’, i.e., inquiry of information. This inquiry would build certain gradual skills for the researcher, because inquiry of information requires that the available data of the subject (of the research) be introduced in the paper. This process will increase the knowledge of the researcher in all cases.

4. Research Builds Career Skills

Career skills refer to the main profession of the researcher; it is not possible for an engineer to write a research paper in psychology. Therefore, specialization plays the major role to build a base for the researcher in his profession. This is true for D. Lester when he writes that “research professionals are on the cutting edge of scientific and technological developments, and their work leads to new medicines, consumer products, industrial processes, and numerous other developments”.

5. Research Teaches Critical Thinking

All the previous points will result in a development in the critical thinking of the researcher, “as you wade through the evidence on your subject, you will learn to discriminate between useful information and unfounded or ill-conceived comments”.

6. Research Teaches Logic

Similarly, investigating the different sources about a certain topic, and the ability to pick out only the reliable ones of them would invite the researcher to have a judgement ability “like a judge in the courtroom, you must make perceptive judgments about the issues surrounding a specific topic”.

7. Research Teaches the Basic Ingredients of Argument

An argument is the basic unit of the argumentation process; it is the same thing in every communicative situation that the researcher would finally arrive at the level to advance arguments scientifically. These arguments would be provided with adequate evidences.