

## Introduction to Nursing Research: Incorporating Evidence-Based Practice

What is an introduction for a research paper?

Introductions to research papers do a lot of work.

It may seem obvious, but introductions are always placed at the beginning of a paper. They guide your reader from a general subject area to the narrow topic that your paper covers. They also explain your paper's:

Scope: The topic you'll be covering

Context: The background of your topic

Importance: Why your research matters in the context of an industry or the world

Your introduction will cover a lot of ground. However, it will only be half of a page to a few pages long. The length depends on the size of your paper as a whole. In many cases, the introduction will be shorter than all of the other sections of your paper.

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Why is an introduction vital to a research paper?

The introduction to your research paper isn't just important. It's critical.

Your readers don't know what your research paper is about from the title. That's where your introduction comes in. A good introduction will:

Help your reader understand your topic's background

Explain why your research paper is worth reading

Offer a guide for navigating the rest of the piece

Pique your reader's interest

Without a clear introduction, your readers will struggle. They may feel confused when they start reading your paper. They might even give up entirely. Your introduction will ground them and prepare them for the in-depth research to come.

What should you include in an introduction for a research paper?

Research paper introductions are always unique. After all, research is original by definition. However, they often contain six essential items. These are:

An overview of the topic. Start with a general overview of your topic. Narrow the overview until you address your paper's specific subject. Then, mention

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Your main introduction should end with a thesis statement. This statement summarizes the ideas that will run through your entire research article. It should be straightforward and clear. An outline. Introductions often conclude with an outline. Your layout should quickly review what you intend to cover in the following sections. Think of it as a roadmap, guiding your reader to the end of your paper.

These six items are emphasized more or less, depending on your field. For example, a physics research paper might emphasize methodology. An English journal article might highlight the overview.

Three tips for writing your introduction

We don't just want you to learn how to write an introduction for a research paper. We want you to learn how to make it shine.

There are three things you can do that will make it easier to write a great introduction. You can:

## Reference

[Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches](#)

[Essentials of Nursing Research: Appraising Evidence for Nursing Practice](#)