



Tikrit University

Collage of Education for Humanities

English Department

Research paper

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The Fundamentals: A Review

Asst. Lect. Noor Arkan Ghaleb

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Chapter five

The Fundamentals: A Review

Before you actually begin writing your research paper, you should be aware of the fundamentals important to all good papers:

- the steps in the writing process,
- the Need For good organization,
- support, unity, and
- coherence.

This chapter summarizes those fundamentals and illustrates them briefly.

1-The Writing Process

There are three steps of writing process:

1-Prewriting: You come up with an idea, gather information for support and prepare a working outline. In prewriting stage, you choose a topic, narrow it, and move toward taking a stand-your thesis.

Prewriting : is a preparation process that you can complete before you actually write your paper, essay or summary. Prewriting helps you organize your thoughts, plan your research or writing, and clarify your thesis.

2-Writing: You write a quick rough draft of your paper. Your working outline and your note cards are the keys. As the outline helps you to identify the gaps in your paper, obviously you are not ready to write the paper until you can fill those gaps. Compare your notes with your outline, when you believe that your

outline is completed, now you are ready to begin the writing stage. Writing process means: the steps and methods used to generate a finished piece of writing.

The six steps of the writing process are: prewriting- planning-Drafting- Revising-Editing-Publishing.

Writing or Drafting stage consists of the steps involved transforming ideas and data into a coherent text. When material has been collected and a topic or thesis

has been formulated, it is time to start writing. The writing stage is thus the main part of the writing process.

3-Re-writing: Is the extra work that perfects the paper. Your paper should have a smooth flow. One way to check for this smooth flow is to read your paper at least once from start to finish. Look specifically for transitions and the way sentences fit with sentences and paragraphs with paragraphs. There are some other tips for the rewriting stage:

a-put the draft aside.

b-if you know how to type, type a draft.

c-read your draft aloud.

Re-writing: is the process of going through a rough draft and fixing things that don't work for you, whether that's changing the word choice in a single sentence

or cutting entire sections that feel like fluff.

The Fundamentals of the Paper

1.Organization: typically refers to the large elements of text structure. It refers to the large parts of piece of writing, although it also refers to how paragraphs and sentences are written. The flow of a piece of writing affects how readers

interpret ideas. It begins with telling your readers what you want to tell them, organizes what you have to tell, then tells them what you have told them.

2-Introduction: is where you set up your topic and approach for the reader. It has several key goals: present your topic and get the reader interested, provide background or summarize existing research gaining the reader's interest and presenting the thesis.

The introduction should answer the following question:

Why do you choose that topic for research, why it is important, why did you adopt a particular method or approach and so on. This concluding part of the introduction should include specific details or the exact questions, to be answered later in the paper.

3-Background section: Research background is a brief outline of the most important studies that have been conducted so far presented in a chronological order. Research background should also include a brief discussion of major

theories and models related to the research problem. Research background is written after the literature review.

If you need to provide your readers with background, the introduction may be a

good place. So, to support your thesis, you might consider a background section

between the introduction and the first major topic.

The advantage of such a section is to present introductory material-to extend the

introduction. The background paragraph does not violate the unity of the paper.

"Unity" means that all material in a paper must be pertinent to the thesis

statement. Still, a background paragraph can provide perspective on your topic.

Then here are some general rules about background sections:

1-Using one should be justifiable, not a common practice,

2-Should be conscious of length,

3-The final sentence of that background paragraph should return the reader to the thesis of the paper.

The background information should indicate the root of the problem being studied , appropriate context of the problem in relation to theory, research , and/or practice, its scope ,and the extent to which previous studies have successfully investigated the problem, noting, in particular , where gaps exist that your study.

4-The body: is the section that supports the thesis and make up the bulk of the paper. It is bookended at the front by the introductory materials and the thesis statement and at the back by the conclusion. supports the paper's thesis, or main

points. The body of a research paper.

Each major topic division must begin with a paragraph of "transition and explanation'. When you finish one major point and move to the next, you will want to have a smooth and clear transition. Sometimes you will need a short paragraph to make the transition, particularly if the major topic takes a number of pages to present. To avoid being too heavy handed with the structure- you may wish to combine into one paragraph both a transitional sentence or two and

the first part of your support for your major topic.

5-Conclusion: It refers the end or close, final part, the last main division of a discourse, usually containing a summing up of the points and a statement of opinion or decisions reached, a result, issue, or outcome.

Conclusion has two purposes: it reminds the readers of thesis, and it provides a sense of finality. Reminding the readers of the thesis does not mean repeating

the word you used in the introduction; you might do no more than imply the thesis, but you do want to make your point one more time, after the readers have read all your support.

6-Support: the key to good support is to make it very detailed, to illustrate your important ideas with examples, statistics or statements by authorities. If your ideas are valid and if your library is large enough, you will be able to find this kind of detail during the research process.

Support: The act of showing that you believe that someone or something is good

or acceptable: approval of someone or something: the act of helping someone by

giving love, encouragement etc.: help that is given in the form of money or other

valuable things.

7-Unity: means that all material in a paper is pertinent to the thesis statement. There should not be any asides or digressions to distract from your main point. The best place to check for unity is the detailed outline you use for writing your first draft. If, as often happens, you find that you must revise your outline while writing the paper, be sure that the revised material is also pertinent.

8-Coherence: the situation when the parts of the text fit together in natural or reasonable way. A coherent paper is one in which the readers are never lost. They know when they are moving from one point to the next and how those points are related to the thesis.

There are three ways of achieving coherence which are especially useful:

First: be sure to move clearly from one topic idea to the next. One way to signal this shift is to relate the upcoming topic to the one you have just finished.

Second: When you begin a new major section of your paper, remind your reader of the thesis by mentioning key words or ideas from the thesis statement.

Finally: Provide transitions from idea to idea, even if you use nothing more sophisticated than 'first', 'second', and 'finally' we have that technique in this paragraph to help you work your way through a list of three techniques with discussion of each one.

The devices for coherence clearly separate the topics and at the same time link them so the readers always know where they are.