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University Reputation: Writing Papers in Top Peer-Reviewed Journals

Research is a critical aspect of a university's reputation. Universities that produce high-quality publications contribute significantly to knowledge and innovation, thereby enhancing their reputation.

Writing a research paper for a peer-reviewed journal may seem daunting to novice researchers. However, adopting a structured approach can make the process less overwhelming than anticipated. Most papers follow a structure that includes the following sections: abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology and data collection and analysis, findings, discussion, limitations, conclusions, and references.

The abstract should be concise and to the point, providing a brief summary of the research problem, methods used, and some key findings.

The introduction is the first section to be read and is the most important part of the paper. It should include the rationale for writing the paper and the research problem being addressed.

The literature review should be comprehensive and critical, offering an overview of the current state of research in the field. It should reference the most recent and relevant journal articles and publications, highlighting how your research will fill existing gaps.

The methodology section is crucial and should detail the research strategy, philosophy, and methods employed. Be clear from the outset whether your research is qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods. Discuss the epistemology, ontology, and axiology of your research, as well as issues of reliability, repeatability, and validity.

The findings section presents the paper's contributions to new knowledge. Graphs, figures, tables, and frameworks are often used to summarize and communicate these findings. The results should be original and demonstrate a serious contribution to knowledge, derived from the analysis of data through statistical, content analysis, or other means.

The discussion section reflects on the results and how they should be interpreted. Here, the contribution to knowledge becomes more evident.

The limitations section summarizes the main constraints of the research study, such as data availability and sample size.

The conclusions section distills the essence of the entire paper, allowing readers to grasp its core message.

The references section should be compiled according to the journal's guidelines. There are no strict rules regarding the maximum or minimum number of references.

If you are asked to revise and resubmit your paper, do not get demoralized; this is a common part of publishing in top peer-reviewed journals.

"What is research but a blind date with knowledge?" -Will Harvey

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