

Introduction and Literature Review

The first sections of the research paper are the introduction and the literature review. These sections require careful attention and should clearly show the following:

- **Significance**

In this segment, make sure to explain the value of the topic and highlight its importance.

- **Review of the Literature**

- 1) This segment is made of 2-3 subtopics or main ideas
- 2) Each subtopic should give background information on the existing literature/research
- 3) The information present in the existing research need to be *synthesized*
- 4) APA citations from at least two sources for each subtopic should be included
- 5) Each subtopic should have a title

- **Rationale**

This segment is a justification of the research topic. In order to successfully justify the importance of your topic, make sure to:

- 1) Clearly identify gaps present within the literature reviewed. These can be found by looking at areas not examined in the sources you have used.
- 2) Suggest how your research might fill these gaps.

Importantly, the link between previous research and the current research must be clear.

- **Aim/Scope**

In this segment, a concise, well-structured research question that will guide the research process must be stated.