

Research Writing Phrases

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This compilation was done during my doctoral years (1997-2002). Hope it's useful for you!

Whether you're an empiricist or a theorist, one thing we all have in common is that, at the end of the day, we would need to report our findings in the form of a paper, thesis or dissertation.

For me, I constantly get 'stuck'. I know what I want to say but how do I make the sentence sound better? I have been often criticized for not making my paper 'flow' better. Thus, over the last 2 years, I compiled many nice-sounding phrases that I constantly refer to so that I can develop a better 'flow'. If you find it useful, please do assist by adhering to the following:

If you would like to download this page and print it out, please tweet me at @ireneclng so that I know about it. Although it's free, it's at least a form of acknowledgement that my collection has benefited someone else beside myself.

Please don't photocopy it and pass it around. If your friends would like to have a copy just refer them to my academic page and they can download it themselves. That way, I know who else has benefited from it (incentive to keep updating).

A lot of the phrases don't really fit into the headings but bear with it - I'll sort it out one of these days.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT AN ENCOURAGEMENT FOR VERBOSITY. IT IS MERELY SOME ASSISTANCE TOWARDS STRUCTURING YOUR SENTENCES

1) Criticizing existing literature

- Instead , almost all normative research concentrated on...
- This emphasis on...
- Normative research have examined...
- The literature of is heavily dominated by descriptive, rather than empirical, materials.
- A few studies... Other studies...
- Regrettably...
- Little attention has been devoted to the impact...
- In recent years, have expressed serious concerns...
- Given the lack of critical attention paid to...
- Another issue is the contention that...
- There is a divergence between and what they actually do. This divergence occurs because...
- Despite questions regarding the...
- One might reasonably ask...
- The experience of the last decade has led to a widespread...
- Several schools of thought have emerged...
- Each of these views (strategies) has some virtues, but for the most part, they are ad-hoc and...
- A more satisfying approach seem to lie in...

- As shown previously...
- Prior research has suggested...
- Another factor...
- The underlying concept...
- Although several conceptual frameworks have been proposed in an effort to explain the dynamics of..... Most of them have focused on...
- They offer useful guidance...
- The likelihood that...
- Even though one would logically expect...
- A term often used to describe the environment of...
- It is not uncommon to see the as...
- Research indicates...
- What is demonstrated...
- While there is a good deal of ambiguity about what a...
- Observations about are so widespread that...
- It would be unfortunate if these major contributions were obscured...
- Another avenue to investigate...
- One fundamental problem...
- Against this backdrop...

2) My work

- The central issue addressed here is the relationship between...
- This framework may be useful.
- The dynamics of...
- The topic of warrants research attention for reasons.
- This dissertation pays explicit attention to...
- By initiating a formal planning process...
- In this dissertation, I do not assume a priori that Rather, I will examine how the broader context in which is embedded.
- To answer these questions...
- Our findings suggest...
- The most significant limitation (contribution)...
- The purpose of this dissertation is to develop a framework for This framework should lead to a theory that will facilitate the...
- The present study attempts to crystallize factors which influence by analyzing the relationship between and...
- Formulating a link between an elegant theory of strategy and complex reality is the ultimate challenge...
- In examining...
- In order to better understanding...
- Within these diverse settings...
- A deeper understanding of the process of...
- A normative analysis...
- Because this theses focuses on such a poorly understood topic...
- We illustrate this procedure by...
- Our synthesizes the and advances in this area.
- This discussion proceed as follows. First...
- Our procedure synthesizes...
- We illustrate this procedure by using...
- Our contention is that...
- This research builds on existing knowledge in the fields of...
- Insights drawn from scholarly literature are supplemented with those from...
- It accentuates the realization that...
- The issue is whether or not...
- The essential requirements for adopting...
- A major contribution...

- The relevance of the central idea of...
- Besides the pedagogical and managerial benefits...
- To accomplish these objectives...
- The dissertation design is not only multi method, drawing on data obtained through interview questionnaires and archival research, but is also multi level.

3) You must know that...

- There is evidence that has a positive affect.
- There still a lot to learn about...
- Consequently, it is fairly well organized that firms govern strategy by...
- This is consistent...
- It is widely accepted that...
- It is apparent...
- A major trait...
- Many contend that...
- These arguments suggest...
- Given this orientation...
- The same principle applies...
- The answer is...
- An explanation of...
- The same logic underlies...
- In this context, it is worthwhile to consider...
- In this respect, ...
- The Chief restraint on the use of...
- In some circumstances...
- By this means...
- Given this scenario...

4) Getting tired of 'hence' and 'therefore'?

- In contrast, ...
- A major trait...
- Typically, ...
- Traditionally, ...
- This leads to...
- Generally, ...
- As noted earlier...
- Whereas...
- Briefly...
- Also, ...
- Still, ...
- Yet...
- Accordingly...
- Initially, it may seem...
- Surprisingly, ...
- Next, ...
- In contrast...
- Nevertheless...