

Common Research Paper Phrases by Section

1. Abstract/Introduction/Literature Review Sections

Objective: Establishing the importance of the topic

- X is the *leading cause* of lung cancer in western industrialized countries.
- Xs are *among the most widely used* antiviral medications and...
- X is a *common disease* characterized by...
- The issue of X has received *considerable critical attention*
- X is an *increasingly important issue* in experimental astronomy...
- Xs are *some of the most potent* anti-coagulants that exist...
- X is an *important component* in robotics and plays a *key role* in Y.

Objective: Establishing the importance of the topic within a given time frame

- Recent developments* in X have increased the need for...
- Over the past fifty years* there has been a steady increase in...
- Traditionally*, Xs have employed one type of model that...
- In the last five years*, there has been increasing public interest in...
- Recently*, researchers have increased their scrutiny of...
- Since the late 1970's* research into X has experienced a boom...
- One of the most important breakthroughs *of the 1990's* was...

Objective: Giving a synopsis of the literature

- In the past decade, *a number of studies* have sought to determine...
- Previous studies in this area of research* have reported...
- A considerable volume of literature* has been published on X.
- Xs *were reported in the later models* of Y (e.g., Pinot, 1998; Gregory, & Mustafa, 2002).
- Jackson (2004: 154) *demonstrates that past research into X* was...
- Surveys such as those carried out* by Jackson (2004) showed how...

Objective: Highlighting a problem in the field of study

- However*, these rapid changes are having serious effects...
- Regardless of the progress in the area of X, the major problem of Y persists.
- Despite its long clinical success*, X has a number of problems in use.
- Questions have been raised about* the safety of prolonged use of...

Objective: Highlighting a controversy in the field of study

- To date *there has been no consensus* on how...
- Some observers have drawn attention to the *conflict* in...
- The *controversy regarding* confirmation of X *has raged unabated* for many decades.
- Debate continues about* the best strategies for the management of...
- Little information is understood* about X or what key factors...

Objective: Highlighting inadequacies of previous studies)]

- However, the *relationship has not been strongly established* ...
- What is not yet clear* is the impact of X on ...
- Most studies* in the field of X *have only focused on* ...
- Results of previous studies* have proved inconclusive

Objective: Stating the purpose of the study)]

- The *main purpose* of this study is *to gain an understanding of*...
- There are two *central objectives* of this study: 1.To *investigate*... 2. To

determine...

- The *aim* of this survey has been *to try and ascertain* what...
- The *goal* of this study is to *investigate the differences between*...
- The purpose of this research is *to examine the way in which* ...

Objective: Identifying the research question or hypothesis

- The *central question* in this dissertation *examines* ...
- This study *aimed to address* the following questions:
- In particular, *this study will examine* four main research questions:
- A crucial research question of this study was thus whether...
- The *hypothesis* that will be tested is...

2. Methods & Materials Section

Objective: Giving a synopsis of methods and sources of data

- This study was investigative and exploratory in nature.
- The study was conducted in the form of a series of experiments, with data being gathered via...
- This research takes the form of a case study of the...
- Using quantitative measures, I attempt to examine the...
- Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in this study.

Objective: Explaining why a method was used or rejected

- A longitudinal study* was used to allow a wider sample of...
- A qualitative method* was avoided to ensure the accuracy of...
- However, *there are certain drawbacks associated with the use of*...
- The X approach *has a number of useful features*, including...

Objective: Describing the process using sequential words/adverbs

- In order to identify* the most responsive traits, the subjects were given...
- To establish whether* there were any mitigating factors...
- For the purpose of* measuring weight, all subjects stood...
- Data for this study* were retrospectively collected from...
- Prior to undertaking this study*, measurements were taken of...
- Following this procedure*, each sample was put in a...
- The *resulting* compound was *manually* mixed in a flask so that...

Objective: Describing the process using instruments/detailed information

- Data analysis* was carried out using Qiqqa 4.
- Comparisons* between the two groups *were made using* t-tests...
- Using* X-ray and *focusing on* X, *it was possible to measure*...
- At intervals of* 2 min, 50cc of X *was dissolved into* Y...

3. Results Section

Objective: Referring to aim or method of the study

- To account for* these two possibilities...
- The correlation between* X and Y *was tested and found to be*...
- The first group of analyses *examined the effects of*...
- T-tests *were used to determine* the connection between...

Objective: Highlighting data in a table, graph, or chart

- As Table 4 shows*, there is a clear trend of...
- From the data in* Figure 3.7, *it can be seen that*...
- The differences between X and Y *are shown in* Table 2.
- Data in this chart *can be compared with those in* Table 3, which...

Objective: Giving positive/negative results

- There was a significant positive correlation between* X and Y...
- The results*, as shown in Figure 25, *indicate that*...

- *Post hoc analysis indicated that the two groups were...*

- *There was no significant increase of X associated with...*
- *No significant reduction in X was found compared with placebo.*
- *None of the differences measured were statistically significant.*
- *Only trace amounts of X were found to be present in...*

Objective: Reporting interesting or surprising results

- *Interestingly, X was shown to have...*
- *Surprisingly, there was no correlation found between X and Y.*
- *The most striking observation to emerge from the data analysis was...*
- *The most striking finding of this experiment was...*

Objective: Reporting results from interviews, surveys, and questionnaires

- *Forty-six individuals returned the questionnaires...*
- *Respondents were asked to indicate whether...*
- *In response to the question "___?" 53 percent indicated that...*
- *The majority of those who responded to this item said that...*
- *Just under half of the participants expressed the belief that...*

Objective: Summarizing and transitioning to new sections

- *Together these results provide crucial insights into...*
- *In summary, these results indicate that...*
- *The results in this chapter point to...The next chapter therefore moves on to discuss...*
- *Overall, these results imply that...*

4. Discussion Section

Objective: Referencing literature or research aim/question

- *As mentioned in the review of literature, there are many studies that...*
- *One initial objective was to determine what kind of...*
- *It was hypothesized that participants dealing with Alzheimer's would...*
- *In the review of the literature, little to no data was found to connect...*
- *A strong relationship between X and Y was reported in the literature.*

Objective: Stating unexpected outcomes

- *Surprisingly, X was found to have no additional DNA markers in the...*
- *This finding was unexpected and suggests that there is...*
- *Contrary to expectations, this study located no significant differences between...*
- *One unanticipated finding was that X was...*

Objective: Referencing previous literature that supports/undermines hypothesis

- *These results match those mentioned in earlier studies of X...*
- *This finding further supports the argument that X is...*
- *These findings corroborate the ideas of Jackson and Coll (2011), who maintained that...*
- *However, the findings of the current study are not consistent with previous research.*

- *This result has not previously been described in similar studies.*
- *These findings differ from Ronald's 1994 estimate of X, but are broadly consistent with earlier studies.*

Objective: Giving an explanation for the results

- *There are several possible explanations for such a result.*
- *Another possible explanation for this might be...*
- *These differences can be explained in part by the colors of X and Y.*
- *It seems likely that these results are in fact due to...*

- *This discrepancy could be attributed to...*

- *There are two likely causes for the differences between X and Y*

Objective: Suggesting a general hypothesis

- *Therefore, it is possible/probable/likely that X and Y are...*
- *Hence, it could be hypothesized that...*
- *This finding, while preliminary, suggests that X is an agent of...*
- *The value of X suggests that a link may exist between...*

Objective: Discussing wider implications

- *These results help us to understand how X and Y are connected.*
- *These results provide wider support for the hypothesis that...*
- *One of the larger issues emerging from these findings is...*
- *An implication of these findings is the potential for...*

Objective: Suggesting future work

- *There is abundant space for further progress in analyzing...*
- *At present, several questions remain unanswered.*
- *A further study with more focus on X should be done to investigate...*
- *Further studies of X that account for these variables need to be undertaken.*

5. Conclusion (End of Discussion Section)

Objective: Restating the aims of the study]

- *This study set out to determine that X had implications on...*
- *In this investigation, the goal was to assess the efficacy of...*
- *This paper argued that X was important in determining Y.*
- *Further studies of X that account for these variables need to be undertaken.*

Suggested Online Journal Search Tools and Resources

- **Google Correlate:** Uses web search activity data to find queries with a similar pattern to a target data series.
(<https://www.google.com/trends/correlate>)
- **Wolfram Alpha:** Computational knowledge engine that answers factual queries directly by computing the answer from externally sourced "curated data."
(<https://www.wolframalpha.com/>)
- **Virtual LRC.com:** A Google alternative safe search engine for students offering information and reference sites: art, social sciences, social issues, social problems, history, biography, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, science, math, chemistry, biology, and dictionaries.
(<http://www.virtuallrc.com/arts/search/search.pl?Mode=Tips>)
- **AcademicIndex.net:** A scholarly search engine and web directory for college students.
(<http://www.academicindex.net/>)
- **Digital Library of the Commons Repository:** Provides free and open access full-text articles, papers, and dissertations. This site contains an author-submission portal; an Image Database; the Comprehensive Bibliography of the Commons; a Keyword Thesaurus, and links to relevant reference sources on the study of the commons.
(<https://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/>)

**Additional Information and Resources
(Editing, Journal Submissions, Academic Writing)**

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