

HOW TO WRITE ACADEMIC PAPER

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Types of economics paper

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- Theoretical paper
 - ✓ Develop new model or theory
 - ✓ Adjust or improving existing model or theory

- Empirical paper
 - ✓ Use existing data or information to test hypothesis based on existing economic theory or economic concept

Process

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- Find topic
- Write outline
- Draft a paper
 - Proposal
 - Final report
- Write abstract

How to find topic for the paper

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- Use all skills --- Read, listen, and write
- Read
 - Articles in refereed economics journal and other related journals.
 - Newspapers
 - Books
- Listen
 - News
 - Seminar
 - Brainstorming

How to find topic for the paper

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□ Write

- Always take note from what you read and listen
- Start to write your idea in a systematic ways
- Organize your writing

How to find topic for the paper

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- Make a decision on type of paper:
 - Theoretical paper vs. Empirical paper
- Make a decision on area of interest
 - Micro oriented: such as (chosen) service industry and firm's strategy
 - Macro oriented: such as (chosen) service industry and economic growth
 - Mixed of both

How to find topic for the paper

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□ Possible topic may be in the form of

- Explanation of something or some situation, for example

- ✓ (Chosen) service industry development policy
- ✓ (Chosen) service industry adjustment after financial crisis in Asia
- ✓ Market structure, strategy and performance of firms in (chosen) service industry

How to find topic for the paper

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- **Possible topic may be in the form of**
 - Relationship of two or more variables, for example
 - ✓ (Chosen) service industry growth and economic growth
 - ✓ Internationalization of the (chosen) service industry and performance of firms

How to find topic for the paper

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□ Possible topic may be in the form of

- Effect of one or more explanatory variables (or situation) on another variable (or situation), for example
 - ✓ Effect of (chosen) service industry growth on economic growth
 - ✓ Effect of export of (chosen) service industry on firms' performance
 - ✓ Effect of innovation on (chosen) service industry growth
 - ✓ Factors affecting (chosen) service industry growth
 - ✓ Factors affecting demand for (chosen) service industry
 - ✓ Factors affecting labor productivity in (chosen) service industry
 - ✓ Factors affecting strategy of firms in (chosen) service industry
 - ✓ Factors affecting competitiveness of firms in (chosen) service industry

How to find topic for the paper

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- **Possible topic may be in the form of**
 - **Comparison style**
 - ✓ Development of Thai versus Malaysian (Chosen) service industry
 - ✓ Labor productivity of (chosen) service industry compared to those of other service industries in Thailand
 - ✓ Labor productivity of (chosen) service industry of countries in Asia
 - ✓ Economic contribution of (chosen) service industry in overall economy across ASEAN member countries
 - ✓ Competitiveness of Thai (chosen) service industry compared to other Asian countries

How to find topic for the paper

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- **Possible topic may be in the form of**
 - Comparison style
 - ✓ Factors affecting consumer decision between public and private (chosen) service industry

How to find topic for the paper

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- **Possible topic may be in the form of**
 - Mixed of two or more of the aforementioned style

How to find topic for the paper

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- Topics can range from very broad perspective to very specific one, for example
 - Factors affecting growth of retail sector in Thailand
 - Effects of innovation on growth of convenient stores in Thailand
 - Competitive strategies of high-end department stores in Bangkok

Structure of paper (Outline)

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- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature review
- Theoretical framework or Conceptual framework
- Research methods
- Results/Findings
- Suggestions or recommendations
- Limitation
- Conclusion
- Reference
- Appendix

Abstract

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- ❑ An abstract is a short summary of your completed research. If done well, it makes the reader want to learn more about your research
- ❑ The length: Normally fit within one short paragraph
- ❑ Normally write after finish writing the paper

Abstract

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Basic components of an abstract

- ❑ Briefly state
 - ✓ Research objective (s) or research question (s)
 - ✓ Motivation for the study
 - ✓ Research method
 - ✓ Key findings and implications (might also include key recommendation)
 - ✓ Contribution of the paper on existing literature
- ❑ If not include all of the above, at least abstract should cover objectives of the paper and key findings

Abstract

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What is the differences between the paper conclusions and abstracts

- ❑ Even the two parts convey similar message, the abstract should be
 - Shorter
 - More concise and right to the point
 - Attractive

Introduction

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Composition of introduction

- Needs for the study
- Clear objectives of the paper or main research questions
- Explaining structure of the paper

Literature review

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Composition of literature review

❑ Theoretical literature review:

Review theories used to explain hypotheses of the research.

❑ Empirical literature review:

Review previous works (research) related to your research. It could be previous work used to test similar hypothesis or have similar study objectives.

Literature review

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Objectives of literature review

- Place **each work** in the context **of its contribution** to the understanding of the **subject under review**
- Describe the **relationship of each work to the others** under consideration
- Identify **new ways to interpret**, and shed light on any gaps in, **previous research**
- **Resolve conflicts** amongst seemingly contradictory **previous studies**
- Identify areas of prior scholarship **to prevent duplication of effort**
- Point the **way forward for further research**
- **Place one's original work in the context of existing literature**

Source: <http://library.ucsc.edu/print/help/howto/write-a-literature-review>

Literature Review

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How to write literature review

- ❑ **An overview** of the subject, issue or theory under consideration, along with the objectives of the literature review
- ❑ **Division of works under review into categories** (e.g. those in support of a particular position, those against, and those offering alternative theses entirely)
- ❑ **Explanation of how each work is similar to and how it varies from the others**
- ❑ **Conclusions** as to which pieces are best considered in their argument, are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of their area of research

Source: <http://library.ucsc.edu/print/help/howto/write-a-literature-review>

Literature review

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Tips and notes for literature review

- May include theoretical literature review and/or empirical literature review
- Before writing this section you should

- Find relevant papers as much as possible

- Question:** How do you know whether the paper is relevant or not ?

- Tips:** Read the paper abstract and skim through the paper.

- Select relevant papers

- Skim through the paper and note on the points relevant to your paper

- Group the papers

Literature review

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Tips and notes for literature review

- ❑ Should focus on articles from refereed journal or books
- ❑ Plan before write
 - Plan about the flow of your writing
 - Mention about the articles related to your statement
- ❑ Determine whether your study
 - is similar to or different from those articles
 - follows or extends study of any article?

Literature review

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Final notes

- A literature review is a piece of **discursive prose**,
 - not a list describing or summarizing one piece of literature after another
 - It's usually a bad sign to see every paragraph beginning with the name of a researcher
 - Instead, organize the literature review into sections that present themes or identify trends, including relevant theory
 - You are not trying to list all the material published, but to synthesize and evaluate it according to the guiding concept of your thesis or research question

Source: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/literature-review>

Final Notes

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Final notes

- If you are writing an **annotated bibliography**
 - you may need to summarize each item briefly, but should still follow through themes and concepts and do some critical assessment of material
 - Use an overall introduction and conclusion to state the scope of your coverage and to formulate the question, problem, or concept your chosen material illuminates
 - Usually you will have the option of grouping items into sections—this helps you indicate comparisons and relationships. You may be able to write a paragraph or so to introduce the focus of each section

Source: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/literature-review>

Conceptual framework

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- Framework used for the analysis of your paper
- Setting up hypothesis (according to research questions based on relevant theories or propositions)
- Remember:
 - **This is not a review of theories, but how to apply theories to your study** (a review of theories should put in the literature review section)
 - Framework is very important, you can also draw a diagram to explain your framework (but need to explain the diagram)

Conceptual framework

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Example of diagram demonstrating research conceptual framework

See Figure 1 (page 11) in

Navarro, T. M. and Roura, D. R. (2010). *Growth and Productivity in the Service Sector: The State of the Art*. Working Papers, the Institute of Social and Economic Analysis.

Research Methods

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- For theoretical paper, this section can be combined with conceptual framework or can be separated
- For empirical paper, this section may include
 - Variable measures
 - Source of data:
 - ✓ Primary data and/or
 - ✓ Secondary data
 - Methods to analyze data

Research Method

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- ❑ Variable measure (for example)
 - **Economic growth:** can be measured by real GDP growth, nominal GDP growth, real GNP growth, nominal GNP growth/ etc.
 - **The presence of service sector in the country economy or service sector development:** can be measured by
 - ✓ service sector GDP/overall GDP
 - ✓ Service sector employment/overall employment
 - **Service sector quality:** can be measured by
 - ✓ Whether each particular service passes standard determined by any relevant organization which could be in terms of either pass/not pass or in level (such as number of stars for hotel and restaurant)
 - ✓ Customer rating

Source of data

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□ Primary data

- ❖ Questionnaires
- ❖ Interviews
- ❖ Focus group interviews
- ❖ Observation
- Etc.

See advantages and disadvantages of each method at

<http://brent.tvu.ac.uk/dissguide/hm1u3/hm1u3text3.htm>

Note:

should mentioned about data collection methods such as

- ✓ places and time period distributed questionnaires, conducting interview, focus group and/or observation.
- ✓ How to choose target people to answer questionnaire and/or interview, etc.

Source of data

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□ Secondary data

- ❖ The data that have been already collected by and readily available from other sources.
- ❖ Such data are cheaper and more quickly obtainable than the primary data and also may be available when primary data can not be obtained at all

See advantages, disadvantages, and evaluation of secondary data at

http://www.managementstudyguide.com/secondary_data.htm

Source of data

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□ Secondary data

Example of secondary data sources

- journal articles, newspaper, thesis, dissertation
- Census
- Company or organization annual report
- Documents or data from government agency, private agency, international organization etc.

Methods to analyze data

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- Descriptive statistics

- Frequency
- Percentage
- Mean, mode, median
- Minimum, maximum, standard deviation
etc

May demonstrate in the form of tables, graphs, etc.

- Correlation analysis, variance-covariance matrix
- Analysis of variance: ANOVA
- Regression
- etc.

Results, Findings

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- Should based on objectives of the study
- Organize the way you report the results
- Show all your findings
- May provide suggestion to related parties here or can separate this part to another section

Suggestions or recommendations

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- Provide suggestions to relevant parties such as relevant public and private agencies (institutions), firms in the industry

Limitation

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Example of possible paper limitation

- Strong assumptions
- Variables used in the study
- Data collection method
- Data availability
- Method of analysis
- Scope of the study or issues covered
- Application of the study
etc.

Conclusion

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- ❑ Briefly restate the paper's objective (s) or research question (s)
- ❑ Briefly state the research findings and implications
- ❑ Briefly explain recommendation for relevant parties
- ❑ Suggestion for further study
- ❑ Tips
 - Should not write anything news that never mention in the paper before
 - Should not copy and paste paragraphs from the results section

Reference

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- ❑ Use APA style

Appendix

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May include

- ❑ Example of Questionnaire
- ❑ Questions for interview

Academic Conventions: Things to Do

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- ❑ Do address both sides of an argument
- ❑ Do cite your sources
- ❑ Do use a formal tone
- ❑ Do use concrete details
- ❑ Do give yourself time to develop your paper

Academic Conventions: Things to Avoid

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- ❑ Avoid using personal pronouns like “I”, “We”, and “You”.
- ❑ Avoid using contractions like “isn’t”, “they’re”, “wasn’t”, etc.
- ❑ Avoid slang
- ❑ Avoid a personal tone
- ❑ Avoid vague ideas
- ❑ Avoid plagiarism

Writing style

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- ❑ American Psychological Association (APA) style
- ❑ Chicago style
- ❑ Modern Language Association (MLA) style
- ❑ This class.....we will use APA style

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

How to use Jstor

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- Ask librarian
- Example

Your group project instructions

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- Number of pages: including everything (except appendix), not more than 30 pages (Font Times New Roman 12, space 1.5)
- Writing style: APA style
- Project proposal presentation: After midterm week
- Final project presentation: the last two weeks of the class
- Final project submission: to be announced