

Introduction

Many purposes

1. Identify the research area
2. Establish its importance
3. Give background information
4. Identify a gap in the area
5. Show how your study will fill the gap

Purposes 1-4 accomplished by reviewing the literature on the research area:

- Citation of primary literature
- Usually no textbooks
- Not a comprehensive review
- Limit to the most influential/critical/key/essential studies, findings, and knowledge in the field

Usually written last, because author is mentally going from the specific work they did (which they understand most thoroughly) to where their work best fits in the broader context of the field (which they understand more generally and not as deeply).

Growing outward from relating to expert audience (easiest to do) to relating to broader audience (more difficult).

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- Author writes from specific to general.
- Readers read from general to specific.

Practice Exercise 6.5, p. 203.

Identify where each passage comes from, based on the purpose and intended audience.

Move Structure Fig. 6.1, p. 204.

1. Introduce the research area
(purposes 1-3, what has been done)
2. Identify a gap in the area
(purpose 4, what needs to be done)
3. Fill the gap by describing your work
(purpose 5, what your study tries to do)

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=> broad (the field) to narrow (you).

Introduce the Research Area

1. Identify the area
=> one sentence, the opening sentence
2. Establish importance
=> one paragraph, maybe two
3. Provide background information
=> one paragraph, maybe two

Identify a Gap in the Research Area

“Although we know much about X, we know little about Y.” (Table 6.1, p. 205)

=> one paragraph at most, because there is not much to say if it really is a gap

Fill the Gap

“In this paper, we ...”

=> one short paragraph that briefly introduces and explains your work

Practice Exercise 6.9, p. 209-210:

Identify the opening sentence and the order.