

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

www.wordvice.com/blog

Journal Submissions Cover Letter Sample

Use this template and sample to write your cover letter when submitting a manuscript to journals

Edith Warsaw, PhD.
 Editor-in-Chief/Managing Editor/Co-Editors-in-Chief
 Awesome Science Journal
 Cincinnati, OH 41073
 June 24, 2016

Dear Dr./Ms./Mr. [e.g. Warsaw],

I am writing to submit our manuscript entitled, [e.g. "X Marks the Spot"] for consideration as a [e.g. *Journal of Education*] [e.g. research article]. [e.g. We examined the efficacy of using X factors as indicators for depression in Y subjects in Z regions through a 12-month prospective cohort study and can confirm that monitoring the levels of X is critical to identifying the onset of depression, regardless of geographical influences.]

Given that [e.g. there has been an alarming increase in depression rates among teenagers coupled with a lack of any uniform practical tests for screening students], we believe that the findings presented in our paper will appeal to the [e.g. education policymakers] who subscribe to [e.g. *The Journal of Education*]. Although [e.g. prior research has identified a few methods that could be used in depression screening, such as X and Y, the applications developed from those findings have been cost-prohibitive and difficult to administer on a national level]. Thus, our findings will allow your readers to [e.g. understand the factors involved in identifying the onset of depression in teenagers better and develop more cost-effective screening procedures that can be employed nationally.] In doing so, we hope that our research [e.g. advances the toolset needed to combat the concerns preoccupying the minds of many school administrators.]

This manuscript expands on the prior research conducted and published by [e.g. Dane and Stellers] in their paper [e.g. "The Expanding Universe"], published in [e.g. *Wacky Science Monthly*, 2004]

or

This manuscript [examines a different aspect of] e.g. [takes a different approach to] the issues explored in the following papers:

- [e.g. Steinburg, Diane and Jim Baker. "New Methods of Hair Curling." *The Journal of Cosmetology*. 2010].
- [e.g. Fossey, Julia. "Heat-to-water Ratio for Shampooing." *Cut Cut Journal*. 2012].

Should you select our manuscript for peer review, we would like to suggest the following potential reviewers because they would have the requisite background to evaluate our findings and interpretations objectively.

- [e.g. Ehab Makaway, University of Texas, ehbmakaway@utex.edu, Prof. of Endocrinology]
- [Name, institution, email, expertise]

Each named author has substantially contributed to conducting the underlying research and drafting this manuscript. Additionally, to the best of our knowledge, none of the above-suggested persons have any conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise.

If you require any additional information regarding our manuscript, please do not hesitate to contact us directly via the resources below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Journal Editor's First and Last Name]

Sincerely,
 e.g.
 [Dr. Jane Doe]

[Prof. John Spencer and Debra Abrams]
 [The University of Wall Walla]
 [Walla Walla, WA 82234]
 [doe_jane34@wwu.edu]
 [Tel: 1-313-555-3058]

[Graduate degree (if any)]
 [Position at journal]
 [Journal name]
 [Journal address]
 [Submission date:
 month day, year]
 [Journal editor's last name]

[Para. 1: Introduction]
 [Paper title] [*Journal title*] [Paper type].
 [One to two sentence "pitch" summarizing the study design, where applicable, your research question, your major findings, and the conclusion.]

[Para. 2: Purpose of Research and Contribution to Journal]
 [Context that prompted your research][Reader profile]
 [Journal Name]. [Achievements of previous literature and their gaps in knowledge] [Identify the aspects of the journal's [Aim and Scope](#) that align with your paper]. [Show further and broader use of the work in this area of research].

[Para. 3: Similar or Related Works]
 [Author(s)]
 [Title of journal in which it is published] 1... 3. [author(s) who wrote papers related to your research, title of paper, and journal it is published in]
 *Always check the formatting of the given journal (APA, AMA, Chicago, etc.) for the guidelines in how to list the references

[Para. 4: Potential Reviewers/ Additional Statements]
 [Name, institution, email, expertise]
 [Name, institution, email, expertise]
TIP: Include 3-5 reviewers since it is likely that the journal will use at least one of your suggestions

[Para.5: Frequently Requested Additional Information]

[Lead author name]
 [Corresponding author(s)]
 [Institution/Affiliation name]
 [Institution address]
 [Your e-mail address]
 [Telephone #]

Rebuttal Letter to Journals Upon Receiving Feedback

Rebuttal Letter Sample With Recommended Content [in Brackets]

Dear [editor's name] ,

Thank you for the thoughtful and constructive feedback you provided regarding our manuscript, [paper title] . We agree with you that [reason for rejection or suggestion to change paper] , and we have amended this by changing the content on [p. #, line #-#], from [original content] to [revised content] , in order to better conform with the formatting and content rules of [journal name] .

Additionally, we have clarified [sections or parts that you have clarified] . We are certain that you will find this most recent version of our manuscript clears up the main issues you indicated in your response. However, we have not included/changed [unchanged section] as we found that [reason] . We do hope you understand our rationale for this decision.

With these changes to our final manuscript, we hereby resubmit our manuscript for a secondary evaluation. Thank you once again for your consideration of our paper.

Sincerely,

[Lead Author Name/Title]

[Corresponding Author/Titles]

[Institution/Affiliation Name]

[Institution Address]

[Your e-mail address]

[Tel: (include relevant country/area code)]

Useful Phrases to Include in Your Submissions Cover Letter

Summarizing the purpose of the study

- This study examines/presents/analyzes...
- X remains an issue for [researchers/governments/educators, etc]...
- In this study, we investigated/tested/developed....
- The purpose of this work was to present/investigate...

Detailing major research results

- Our findings confirm that...
- We have found/determined that...
- Our results suggest/establish/corroborate...
- Our findings reveal...
- Our study clarifies...

Emphasizing the relevance of the findings

- These findings should help/enable [doctors/engineers/educators] to...
- We believe that the findings in this paper will be of great interest/importance to the readers of your journal.
- These findings should greatly interest your reader, as...
- Thank you for providing these insights.

Useful Phrases to Include in Your Rebuttal Letter to Journals

Preface to your response

- This is an interesting and valuable perspective.
- We agree with your assessment that...
- You have raised an important question about...

Expressing consent to editor/reviewer's comments

- We agree with you and have incorporated this suggestion throughout our paper.
- We have incorporated your comments by... (p. #, lines #-#).
- We have now [X] (p. #, lines #-#) and [Y] (p. #, lines #-#). We think these changes now better [Z]. We hope that you agree.

Expressing objections to editor/reviewer's comments

- You have raised an important point; however, we believe that [X] would be outside the scope of our paper because...
- This is a valid assessment of...; however, we believe that [X] would be more appropriate because...
- We agree that...; however, due to [X], we believe that...
- In our revisions, we have attempted to [X] (p. #, lines #-#); however, we have retained some of our arguments because...

Reflecting and giving additional comments about revisions made

- We have clarified that... means... (p. #, lines #-#) throughout the paper.
- We have revised the text (p. #, lines #-#) to reflect...
- We removed [X] (from p. #, lines #-#) and hope that the deletion clarifies the points we attempted to make.
- We have rewritten [X] (p. #, lines #-#) to be more in line with your comments. We hope that the edited section clarifies...

Giving additional information and explanation

- We have included a new Figure # (p. #) to further illustrate...
- We have added a new Table # (p. #), which outlines...
- There are multiple reasons/approaches to...

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