

### Research Areas of Emphasis

1. Appropriateness of Title of the Article
2. Has the paper any sound theoretical base?
3. Are the objectives of the article clear and well focused
4. What is the relevance and strength of the adopted methodology
5. What is the adequacy of the data utilized?
6. Have adequate and up-to-date reference materials been utilized and acknowledged?
7. Scientific/ scholarly contribution of the article
8. Have the conclusions of the paper been objectively reached based on the results obtained?

The Society for Research and Academic Excellence engages in academic mentorship. The Society is out to encourage brilliant and enterprising research scholars both young and experienced to make known the results of their hard work for the good of the nation and the world. A research is an academic enquiry into the status quo to make discoveries that would solve problems in the society. Our research format captures what is most conventional in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

#### 1. The Problem/ Objective

The most important part of academic research is identification of the problem. There must be a problem to be solved. If there is no problem in the area in question then the research is not necessary. The Problem is usually expressed inside the Introduction, without necessarily giving it a Statement of Problem subheading. It is within this that we encapsulate the Objective of the Study. Everything in the research is controlled by the problem or objective. Some research formats will insist that Statement of Problem and Objective should appear as two separate ideas while some will subsume one inside the other. For our Society Journals the Statement of Problem **MUST** be clearly stated within the Introduction. It does not need to form a subheading, however. Also, it is acceptable to have either the Statement of Problem or the Objective, or even both, within the same research work

#### 2. Appropriateness of Title

The title of the work should clearly encapsulate the content of the research and should be stated within a maximum of sixteen words. A title should be catchy and pre-emptive. A reader should be able to have a clue of the main issue to be discussed in the body of the work by mere looking at the title.

#### 3. Methodology

Any academic paper that has no methodology is not acceptable in scholarship. In every field of studies there are methodologies that have been developed and acceptable, worldwide. Anyone who has pursued a field of study up to postgraduate level should be well conversant with the methodologies that are acceptable within that field. Junior scholars should meet older ones and experts for a guide on acceptable methodologies.

#### 4. Content arrangements and logical argument

Points in the body of the research should be arranged in a logical order. First person and second person English expressions should be avoided. Research is not a personal problem but a societal one. Third person grammatical expressions are technical and should be used. The body should be divided into subheadings that will capture the processes leading to the solution of the Statement of the Problem or Objective. If the content does not lead to the solution of the problem then the research was not successful.

#### 5. Grammatical Expressions

Contributors must express their thought in good English. Long sentences and Typographical errors are not acceptable in academic research. Very few experts in English language can use long sentences without mixing up tenses and creating syntax problem. Yet, for the benefit of the reading audience, research writers are required to present their reports in simple and error free sentences.

#### 6. Clarity of Thought

Ideas and expressions must be presented with clarity of thought. The readers of the work should be able to appreciate what is said without stress. If a researcher is unable to make himself or herself understood then his/ her research work has not reached the end users.

#### 7. Conclusion

The conclusion must capture a brief summary of what the key points that lead to the research finding as well as the finding. Recommendations could be included as a separate heading if the conclusion does not achieve that purpose.

#### 8. Citation method

There are acceptable citation methods acceptable worldwide. A researcher must be consistent with the citation method that is being used. A researcher is not allowed to use two citation methods in the same work. Only one, and consistently, must be used. Most commonly used citation methods are Kate Turabian Style and American Psychological Association Style (APA).

#### 9. Contribution to Knowledge

Every research must contribute to existing knowledge. A paper that does not add anything to knowledge is not acceptable. Sometimes individuals spend time discussing topics that have been discussed severally without adding a new thing to what scholars have said on the issue. Such writings are not acceptable as healthy research work. There must be contribution to knowledge. Sometimes the question is asked, "What has the researcher said which no other person has said?"

#### 10. Relevance to Societal Development

Every research must be relevant to societal development. Academic research is not telling stories. It has to build the society in one form or the other. It is not relevant in the society then it becomes useless. It is therefore necessary to apply the finding to the society. Contextualising an issue is very necessary here.

Finally, the research must achieve what it set for itself to achieve. It must solve the problem it was stated to solve in the Statement of Problem. This must guide the researcher throughout the work. Without this most important point the researcher did nothing in the work.