



THOMAS ADEWUMI  
UNIVERSITY,  
OKO, KWARA STATE  
Science | Technology | Medicine

# **PRESENTATION AT THE CAREER PROGRAMME FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS (2024)**

## **Module X: *Research and Project Writing Workshop***

Adekemi T. Dahunsi PhD.

Director, DRIPDEV

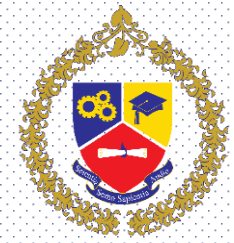
March 12, 2024



# ***Introduction to research and project writing***

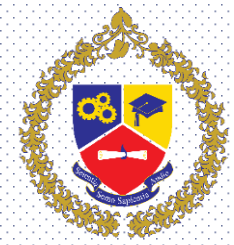
The idea behind research is based on the knowledge that when someone searches, they usually have some idea, no matter how specific or ambiguous.





# *What is Research?*

An objective, systematic and scientific investigation of problem through collection, analysis and interpretation of data in order to gain understanding about a phenomena (an object of investigation).

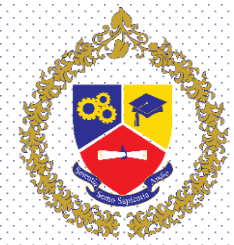


- ▶ Search for knowledge to fill a gap (what? why?).
- ▶ A gap/research problem calls for investigation.

Finding answer to research problems...

### Points to note:

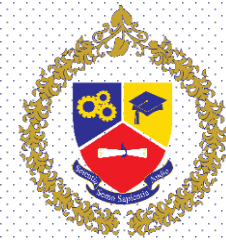
- ▶ Problem-driven not topic-driven i.e. there is a problem
- ▶ Creation of new knowledge/ideas
- ▶ No known answer
- ▶ Not conducted out of hearsay
- ▶ Research problem is anchored on data
- ▶ Public document which can be scrutinized by anyone
- ▶ Products may be tangible or intangible
- ▶ Sharing of research results with other scholars.
- ▶ Research impact: showcasing how research provide values to people, government, organization or anyone that needs the information



- ▶ **What is Research paper writing?** It is the act of producing an academic paper that summarizes the results of original research or an examination of previously published works on a given subject.
- ▶ It is an essential component of scientific and academic communication since it enables researchers to provide fresh information, concepts, and understanding in their prospective fields.

### Goals of a Research paper

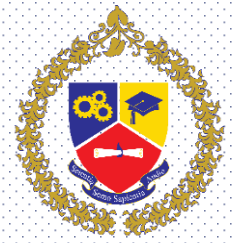
- ▶ expanding our understanding of a specific field.
- ▶ provide a critical evaluation of the body of current literature.
- ▶ presenting outcomes from original research.
- ▶ Resolving specific problems or questions.



# Types of Research Paper writing

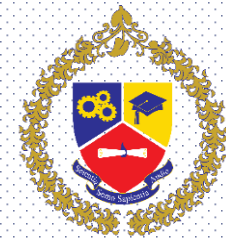
- ▶ Research Abstract
- ▶ Research Article
- ▶ Project Writing

# Structure of a project/thesis



- Title Page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methods/Methodology
- Results
- Discussion of Findings
- Conclusions / Recommendations
- Bibliography / List of References
- Appendices





## Title page

*What is this paper called and who wrote it?* – the first page of the paper; this includes the name of the paper, a “running head”, authors, and institutional affiliation of the authors. The institutional affiliation is usually listed in an Author Note that is placed towards the bottom of the title page.

# Abstract



- A thesis shall have an abstract of not more than 500 words in length (and in many cases it is well shorter than that), the Abstract provides an overview of the study.
- *One-paragraph summary of the entire study*

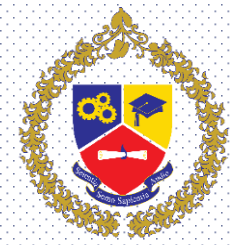
The abstract shall be written in four paragraphs conforming to the following format:

(i) Introduction/Objective: This shall be a brief statement of what the work is about, comprising specific objectives and the overall purpose of the work.

(ii) Methodology: Field work (collection of primary and secondary data) Laboratory Work (where applicable) Methods of Data Analysis/Analytical Techniques Statistical Techniques (where applicable)

(iii) Findings/Results: These shall comprise the specific findings and discussion of such findings or results

(iv) Conclusion/ Implications: The concluding part must include implications of findings. (Contribution to knowledge)



# Introduction

- This shall be a brief statement of what the work is about, comprising specific objectives and the overall purpose of the work
- *What is the topic and why is it worth studying?* – the first major section of text in the paper, the Introduction commonly describes the topic under investigation, summarizes, and provides an overview of the research that is to be described in greater detail in the sections to follow

The following are addressed

**Background of the study**

**Statement of Research Problem:** The principal problem or matter that the study attempts to tackle.

**Justification of Research:**

- i. Why does the question need investigation
- ii. What is to be gained from the study

**Aims and Objectives of the study**

**Research Questions**

**Research Hypothesis**

**Scope of the study**

**Definition of terms**

March 12, 2024



# Literature Review

In the Literature review, the researcher deliberately examines published works that are relevant to the topic or discusses relevant prior research, identifies unresolved issues that the current research will address.

The objective is to comprehend the state of knowledge on the topic covered in the study.

In doing so, the researcher tries to pinpoint the knowledge gaps that the current research seeks to fill as well as the similarities and differences between previous research initiatives and the current one.

Additionally, the researcher assesses and appraises the contributions of other authors' works

# Methodology



- This part provides an explanation of the underlying theory that supports the investigation, defines the techniques the researcher used to collect data, characterizes the tool that was used to collect data, discusses how the tool was administered, and identifies the research population.
- *What did you do?* – a section which details how the research was performed. It typically features a description of the participants/subjects that were involved, the study design, the materials that were used, and the study procedure. If there were multiple experiments, then each experiment may require a separate Methods section. A rule of thumb is that the Methods section should be sufficiently detailed for another researcher to duplicate your research.
- Terms Used Includes: Populations, Sample, Sampling techniques, instruments
- Methodology be thorough, specific, and easy to read so that a different researcher could easily grasp how you carried out your study.

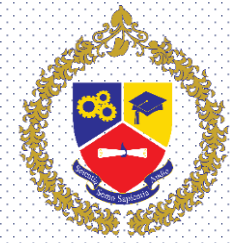
## Types of Sampling Techniques

- i. Random Sampling.
- ii. Systematic Sampling.
- iii. Stratified Sampling.
- iv. Cluster Sampling.
- v. Purposive Sampling



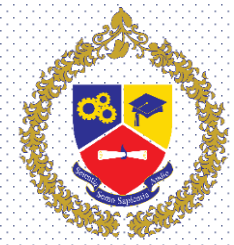
# Types of Instruments for Sampling collection

- Questionnaire.
- Interview
- Experimental/Observation
- Documentary Sources.



## Result

- *What did you find?* – a section which describes the data that was collected and the results of any statistical tests that were performed.
- It may also be prefaced by a description of the analysis procedure that was used.
- If there were multiple experiments, then each experiment may require a separate Results section.



## Conclusion

You should conclude everything at this point. Like an essay's conclusion paragraph, your conclusion section should provide a concise summary of your research proposal and reiterate its stated aim.

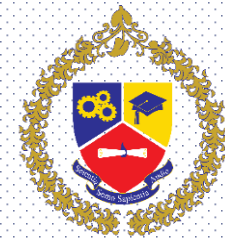
## Discussion and Recommendation





# References

- *List of articles and any books cited* – an alphabetized list of the sources that are cited in the paper (by last name of the first author of each source).
- Each reference should follow specific a guidelines regarding author names, dates, article titles, journal titles, journal volume numbers, page numbers, book publishers, publisher locations, websites, and so on
- There are many types of referencing that can be referred such as MLA (Modern Languages Association) system, the APA (American Psychological Association) system, the Harvard system, and the MHRA (Modern Humanities Research Association) system but the most commonly used are Harvard Referencing & Citation and APA



# Tables and figures

*Graphs and data* (optional in some cases) – depending on the type of research being performed, there may be Tables and/or Figures (however, in some cases, there may be neither).

Each Table and each Figure is placed on a separate page and all Tables and Figures are included after the References. Tables are included first, followed by Figures.

However, for some journals and undergraduate research papers (such as the B.S. Research Paper or Honors Thesis), Tables and Figures may be embedded in the text (depending on the instructor's or editor's policies; for more details, see "Deviations from APA Style" below).

## Appendix

*Supplementary information* (optional) – in some cases, additional information that is not critical to understanding the research paper, such as a list of experiment stimuli, details of a secondary analysis, or programming code, is provided. This is often placed in an Appendix.



# Plagiarism





## Plagiarism

- ▶ Using someone else's work (words or ideas) without giving them proper credit to the original author.
- ▶ It is the process of taking other people's words and/or ideas and pretending that they are your own
- ▶ In academic writing, plagiarizing involves using words, ideas, or information from a source without citing it correctly..
- ▶ Plagiarism can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement. Consequently, whenever you use the words or ideas of another person in your work, you must acknowledge where they came from.
- ▶ **You can avoid plagiarism by:**
  1. Keeping track of the sources you consult in your research.
  2. Paraphrasing or quoting from your sources
  3. Crediting the original author in an in-text citation and in your reference list.
  4. Using a plagiarism checker before you submit.



# How to avoid plagiarism?



## Keep track of sources

- Compile a list as you go
- Be organized
- Label ideas and corresponding sources
- If possible, use primary sources



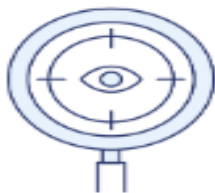
## Quote and paraphrase correctly

- Fully rewrite the source text when you paraphrase
- Use quotation marks for quotes
- Always add a correct citation
- Don't take information out of context



## Add correct citations

- Follow the guidelines of your citation style
- Always add a shortened in-text citation or footnote
- Always add a full citation on the reference page
- Use a reliable citation generator, such as Scribbr's



## Use a plagiarism checker

- Detect accidental plagiarism
- Fix mistakes
- Add forgotten sources
- Choose a reliable plagiarism checker, such as Scribbr's



## Plagiarism prevention

- When using someone else's exact words, I have properly formatted them as a quote.
- When using someone else's ideas, I have properly paraphrased, expressing the idea completely in my own words.
- I have included an in-text citation every time I use words, ideas, or information from a source.
- Every source I cited is included in my reference list or bibliography.
- I have consistently followed the rules of my required citation style.
- I have not committed self plagiarism by reusing any part of a previous paper.
- I have used a reliable plagiarism checkers as a final check.



## Avoiding plagiarism when quoting

- ▶ Quoting means copying a piece of text word for word. The copied text must be introduced in your own words, enclosed in quotation marks, and correctly attributed to the original author.
- ▶ In general, quote sparingly. Quotes are appropriate when:
  - You're using an exact definition, introduced by the original author
  - It is impossible for you to rephrase the original text without losing its meaning
  - You're analyzing the use of language in the original text
  - You want to maintain the authority and style of the author's words



Original text “Arts and culture undoubtedly flourished in the ’20s as a shared American pop culture emerged thanks to the advent of radio broadcasting, widely circulated magazines and movies” (Thulin, 2021).

Quoted incorrectly **In the 1920s, arts and culture undoubtedly flourished in the US due to the advent of radio broadcasting, widely circulated magazines and movies.**

Quoted correctly In the 1920s, “arts and culture undoubtedly flourished” in the US due to “the advent of radio broadcasting, widely circulated magazines and movies” (Thulin, 2021).





## Avoiding plagiarism when paraphrasing

- ▶ Paraphrasing means using your own words to explain something from a source.
- ▶ Paraphrasing does **not** mean just switching out a few words from a copy-pasted text.
- ▶ To paraphrase properly, you should rewrite the author's point in your own words to show that you have fully understood it.



Original text “Plastics harm wildlife in myriad ways, many of which scientists are just beginning to grasp. When birds, fish and other larger animals eat plastics, the material can get tangled up inside their bodies and cause damage; plastics can also make animals feel falsely full, so they stop eating” (Dzombak, 2021).

Paraphrased incorrectly: Plastics **hurt animals** in a lot of ways, many of which scientists are just **starting to understand**. When birds, fish and other **bigger** animals **swallow** plastics, the **substance** can get tangled up inside their **stomachs** and cause **harm**; plastics can also make animals feel **artificially** full, so they **cease** eating.

Paraphrased correctly: Scientists are still learning the extent to which plastics harm animals. According to Dzombak (2021), ingesting plastic can lead to internal damage if it gets tangled when swallowed, and can also lead animals to feel falsely full. Both prevent them from getting the nutrients they need.



## Citing your sources correctly

- ▶ Every time you quote or paraphrase, you must include an in-text or footnote citation clearly identifying the original author.
- ▶ Each citation must correspond to a full reference in the references list or bibliography at the end of your paper.
- ▶ This acknowledges the source of your information, avoiding plagiarism, and it helps your readers locate the source for themselves if they would like to learn more.



- ▶ There are many different citation styles, each with its own rules. A few common styles are APA, MLA and Chicago.
- ▶ The most important thing is to apply one style consistently throughout the text.



## Citing as a single author:

In-text citation	Babalola (2024) defines manpower planning and development as the deliberate and systematic determination of how to use personnel's in the future in order to fulfill the organizations mission and meet its objectives, give certain predicted or intended.
Reference list	Babalola, V.A. (2024). Manpower planning and development as an effective tool for achieving organizational goals. <i>Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development</i> , 4:79-99.

## Citing as a two authors:

In-text citation	The economic development of a country depends on the quality and quantity of its resources, the state of technology and efficient deployment of resources in both production and consumption process(Babalola, 2024).
Reference list	Babalola, V.A. & Oyinlola P. B.(2024). <i>The Fundamental for Research</i> New York, John Willey and Sons Inc. pages 250.

## Citing as more than two authors:

In-text citation	The success or failure of any organization depends much on adequate and proper manpower planning and development of a given organization managers and administration (Babalola et al., 2024).
Reference list	Babalola, V.A., Oyinlola P. B. & Adebayo F. C (2024). <i>Fundamental of small Business Management and Entrepreneurship Development</i> . <i>Journal of Social Science Research</i> , 14:170-205.



## Using a plagiarism checker

- ▶ Most universities use plagiarism checkers like Turnitin to detect potential plagiarism. How plagiarism checkers work:
  - scan your document
  - compare it to a database of webpages and publications
  - highlight passages that appear similar to other texts.

### **Benefits:**

This allows you to identify issues that could constitute accidental plagiarism, such as:

- Forgotten or misplaced citations
- Missing quotation marks
- Paraphrased material that's too similar to the original text
- ▶ Then you can easily fix any instances of potential plagiarism.



**THANK YOU.**