

Introduction

An introduction introduces the reader to your research paper by:

- communicating what your research question is (not necessarily in a question form);
- explaining why that question is interesting and important to a general reader as well as to the audience you are writing for, i.e. by identifying the debates it will illuminate;
- provide a well thought out and clearly-written thesis (preferably in one sentence).
- providing a “road map” to the rest of the paper, i.e., your introduction contains at least one sentence summarizing each major section of your paper.

Articulate your thesis clearly by identifying the Research Question you seek to answer. You can certainly write dozens of pages on any topic and not make a single point. While your piece will be informative and interesting it may only be descriptive. To avoid this pitfall -I encourage each of you to think of a question you'd like to answer and then think of your thesis in this way: X because of Y. In answering your question you'll be articulating your thesis.

Presentation of Data & Analysis

This is the “heart” of your paper (approximately five-six pages independent of your introduction and conclusion) that provides the data and analysis to demonstrate the validity of your interpretation. A summary of the articles you read or a presentation of the data you collected on your topic are NOT sociological analyses; as an urban sociologist, you must have something to say ABOUT the examples you cite - using relevant concepts and theories you have learnt in the class. (So, do not fill space with needless summary and repetition. Also, don't forget that you have to have a clearly identifiable thesis for which everything else you say in the paper is support!)

Provide a separate paragraph for each step in your argument, with appropriate transitions between them. Order paragraphs according to the logic of your argument (not the order in which the citations occur in the primary text). Provide one or two citations from class readings -- carefully chosen theoretical evidence -- per paragraph (i.e. in support of each step of your argument). Follow up on your citations with a line or two of interpretation before moving on to a new example or a new idea (i.e. opening a new paragraph). Be sure to explain the relevance of the material you quote to your argument -- don't just stick it in and expect it to speak for itself. Theoretical relevance must be clearly presented and interpreted for the reader.

Conclusion

What can you conclude from all your work? What did you learn? What are the implications of your findings on the larger concerns of the course and the research topic?

Bibliography

Your paper should include several types of sources (primary and secondary), including web-based sources, books, journal and/or magazine articles, newspaper articles, primary or historical sources, and other appropriate sources. All of these should be cited in the text using the author's last name, year of publication, and page numbers where appropriate. For example: (Chapin and Kaiser 1979), (Reade 1985, 81), (Florida Department of Environmental Regulation 1987, 129-143). Page numbers are necessary whenever a specific argument or finding, rather than the general focus of a work, is cited. All works cited should be listed alphabetically by author's last name in a double-spaced list at the end of the manuscript. Examples of the bibliographic form to be used are given below. And see ASA style citation guide on SPARK for further detail.

An article in an edited book:

Harris, Britton. 1986. Quantitative models of urban development: Their role in metropolitan policy-making. In *Issues in Urban Economics*, eds. Harvey S. Perloff Jr. and Lowdon Wingo, 121-133. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins Press.

A journal article:

Harris, Britton, and Michael Batty. 1993. Locational models, geographical information, and planning support systems. *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 12(3):184-198.

A book:

Innes, Judith E. 1990. *Knowledge and Public Policy: The Search for Meaningful Indicators*. 2nd edition. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers.

An online source:

Mapes, Lynda V. 2005. "Unearthing Tse-whit-zen." *Seattle Times*, May 25. Retrieved August 1, 2005 (<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/news/local/klallam/index.html>).

Paper Formatting

- a.) Total about 8- to 10-pages.
- b.) Double-spaced
- c.) One-inch margins
- d.) 12-point Times New Roman font

- e.) Headings for each section: Introduction, Data&Analysis, Conclusion, and Bibliography
- f.) Page numbers
- g.) Cover page that includes title, name, date, and class (not included in the page count)
- h.) Bibliography