

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (IJESDS)

Research Writing Tips

Introduction

Writing a high-quality academic paper is one of the most important skills a researcher can develop. Whether you are writing your very first journal article or your twentieth, this guide provides practical, easy-to-follow tips to help you produce clear, well-structured, and compelling research that meets the standards of IJESDS and international academic publishing.

1. Choosing Your Research Topic

- Choose a topic that is specific, focused, and relevant to one of the disciplines covered by IJESDS.
- Make sure there is a clear research gap — something that has not been studied or that needs further investigation.
- Avoid topics that are too broad. For example, instead of "housing in Nigeria", try "affordable housing challenges in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria".
- Your topic should be something you are genuinely interested in — passion drives better research.

2. Writing a Strong Introduction

- Start with a broad overview of your topic and gradually narrow down to your specific research problem.
- Clearly state the problem your research is addressing and why it matters.
- Review existing literature briefly to show what is already known and where the gap lies.
- State your research objectives or questions clearly and specifically.
- End your introduction by briefly explaining the structure of your paper.

3. Writing a Clear Methodology

- Describe your research design (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods).
- Clearly state your study area, population, and sampling technique.
- List all data collection tools used — questionnaires, interviews, observations, GPS devices, etc.
- Explain how you analyzed your data — statistical tools, software, thematic analysis, etc.

- Be detailed enough that another researcher could replicate your study using your methodology section alone.

4. Presenting Your Results Effectively

- Present your findings logically — follow the same order as your research objectives.
- Use tables, charts, maps, and figures to make your results clearer and more visually appealing.
- Label every table and figure correctly. Example: Table 1: Distribution of respondents by age group.
- Do not interpret your results in this section — just present what you found.
- Refer to every table and figure in the text before or near where it appears.

5. Writing a Powerful Discussion

- This is where you explain what your results mean.
- Compare your findings with what other researchers have found — agree or disagree and explain why.
- Address unexpected or surprising findings and offer possible explanations.
- Show how your findings contribute to knowledge in your field.
- Acknowledge the limitations of your study honestly.

6. Writing a Strong Conclusion

- Summarize the main findings of your study — do not introduce new information here.
- Restate the significance and contribution of your research.
- Provide practical recommendations based on your findings.
- Suggest specific areas for future research that your study has opened up.
- Keep your conclusion concise — it should be a summary, not a repetition of your entire paper.

7. Writing Your Abstract

- Write your abstract last — after the full paper is complete.
- It must be a maximum of 250 words.
- Cover four key elements: (1) Objective, (2) Methods, (3) Key Results, (4) Significance.
- Do not include citations or references in the abstract.
- Write it in plain language — anyone should be able to understand your study from the abstract alone.

8. Common Writing Mistakes to Avoid

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- Avoid plagiarism — always cite your sources properly using APA 7th Edition.
 - Do not use vague or informal language. Write clearly and precisely.
 - Avoid very long paragraphs — break them up for readability.
 - Do not switch between British and American English — pick one and use it consistently.
 - Proofread your work carefully before submission. Use Grammarly or a similar tool to catch errors.
 - Do not pad your paper with unnecessary content just to increase the word count.

Final Tip: Good writing takes practice. Read published articles in IJESDS and similar journals regularly to familiarize yourself with academic writing style and standards.

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