

YORKWAC Infobase

Data-driven Research Papers: The Introduction

The goal of the introduction is to explain your study. Introduce the research question and summarize and cite the research done to date.

Your introduction should contain several basic parts:

1. *Background information*

This section tells the reader the history behind your research question. Identify the key research done in the area so far and its value for your study.

2. *Literature review*

Cite results of other studies on your topic – not only ones whose results you agree with but also those that support contradictory findings. You can suggest explanation for the differences.

HINT:

To find possible explanations for the differences in results look especially at the introduction and discussion sections of the articles you are comparing.

3. *State your thesis and predictions*

At the end of the introduction, state your thesis – what is your basic problem/question and what results are you expecting.

Example of an introductory paragraph:

“While there has been extensive research into occurrence of wartime rape in Bosnia and several writers have considered the role of the military in organizing and maintaining so-called rape camps, little research has been carried out to date as to the involvement of the civilian administration. In an attempt to redress this imbalance and shed light on this neglected area, this paper will investigate the role of civilian administrative organs in Srebrenica and Vukovar in the phenomenon of wartime rape. It will be shown that...”

The **YORKWAC Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on organizing your data-driven research paper, you might want to try:

Infosheet #7, Organizing a Data-driven Research Paper

Infosheet #9, Data-driven Research Papers: Research Design and Methods

Infosheet #10, Data-driven Research Papers: Reporting Your Findings

Infosheet #11, Data-driven Research Papers: Writing Your Discussion