

National university - Sudan

Faculty of Medical Laboratory Sciences

Batch 9 - Third year (sem. 6)

Introduction to Research – MLS – RESH -326

## Conclusion and recommendation

Lecture {26}

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### Conclusion section

- The conclusion is intended to help the reader understand why your research should matter to them after they have finished reading the paper. A conclusion is not merely a summary of the main topics covered or a re-statement of your research problem, but a synthesis of key points and, if applicable, where you recommend new areas for future research. For most college-level research papers, one or two well-developed paragraphs is sufficient for a conclusion, although in some cases, three or more paragraphs may be required.

- **Importance of a Good Conclusion**
- A well-written conclusion provides you with important opportunities to demonstrate to the reader your understanding of the research problem. These include:
  1. **Presenting the last word on the issues you raised in your paper.** Just as the introduction gives a first impression to your reader, the conclusion offers a chance to leave a lasting impression.
  2. **Summarizing your thoughts and conveying the larger significance of your study.** The conclusion is an opportunity to succinctly answer [or in some cases, to re-emphasize] the "So What?" question by placing the study within the context of how your research advances past research about the topic.
  
- 3. **Identifying how a gap in the literature has been addressed.** The conclusion can be where you describe how a previously identified gap in the literature [described in your literature review section] has been filled by your research.
- 4. **Demonstrating the importance of your ideas.** Don't be shy. The conclusion offers you the opportunity to elaborate on the impact and significance of your findings.
- 5. **Introducing possible new or expanded ways of thinking about the research problem.** This does not refer to introducing new information [which should be avoided], but to offer new insight and creative approaches for framing or contextualizing the research problem based on the results of your study.

- **General Rules**
- **The function of your paper's conclusion is to restate the main argument.** It reminds the reader of the strengths of your main argument(s) and reiterates the most important evidence supporting those argument(s). Do this by stating clearly the context, background, and necessity of pursuing the research problem you investigated in relation to an issue, controversy, or a gap found in the literature. Make sure, however, that your conclusion is not simply a repetitive summary of the findings. This reduces the impact of the argument(s) you have developed in your essay.

- **When writing the conclusion to your paper, follow these general rules:**
  - State your conclusions in clear, simple language. Re-state the purpose of your study then state how your findings differ or support those of other studies and why [i.e., what were the unique or new contributions your study made to the overall research about your topic?].
  - Do not simply reiterate your results or the discussion of your results.
  - Indicate opportunities for future research if you haven't already done so in the discussion section of your paper.

**Consider the following points to help ensure your conclusion is presented well:**

1. If the argument or purpose of your paper is complex, you may need to summarize the argument for your reader.
  2. If, prior to your conclusion, you have not yet explained the significance of your findings or if you are proceeding inductively, use the end of your paper to describe your main points and explain their significance.
  3. Move from a detailed to a general level of consideration that returns the topic to the context provided by the introduction or within a new context that emerges from the data.
- **The conclusion also provides a place for you to persuasively and succinctly restate your research problem, given that the reader has now been presented with all the information about the topic.**

- **Problems to avoid:**

1. **Failure to be concise**

Your conclusion section should be concise and to the point.

2. **Failure to comment on larger, more significant issues**

In the introduction, your task was to move from the general [the field of study] to the specific [the research problem]. However, in the conclusion, your task is to move from a specific discussion [your research problem] back to a general discussion [i.e., how your research contributes new understanding or fills an important gap in the literature].

**3. Failure to reveal problems and negative results**

Negative aspects of the research process should never be ignored. Problems, drawbacks, and challenges encountered during your study should be summarized as a way of qualifying your overall conclusions.

**4. Failure to provide a clear summary of what was learned.**

**5. Failure to match the objectives of your research**

Often research objectives in the social sciences change while the research is being carried out. This is not a problem unless you forget to go back and refine the original objectives in your introduction.

**6. Resist the urge to apologize**

If you've immersed yourself in studying the research problem, you presumably should know a good deal about it [perhaps even more than your professor!].

## Recommendation section

- As you write these recommendations, you will have to look at what you have gotten out of your paper while also thinking about any possible ideas you might have for later research studies. This can help with producing a strong paper that will inspire people to think differently about whatever it is you have written and could especially inspire new research to come about over time.

- **What Can Be Done?**
- When writing your recommendations, you can talk about the steps that should be followed in future studies. These include steps that are needed to implement particular policies or actions that you want to follow. Any resources that would be required in the process should be explained as well. You must be specific when talking about what you might be interested in doing in the future with regards to making any potential studies stand out and work to your favor.

### **□ Explain the Benefits**

- You can always mention the benefits of further studies in your field. Talk about how future studies could be used to correct problems with the current research you have completed. You can also explain a need to fill in certain gaps that you might not be able to get covered right now for any reason. You can always use a timeline to help readers understand when potential developments could come about over time.

### **□ How Feasible Is a Study?**

- Next, you should talk about how feasible certain points in your study might be. This includes understanding whether certain ideas should be explored in further detail later on. This works well if you are trying to talk about certain points that might be worthwhile. You could even talk about potential new developments in your field and whether your study is relevant to them or if additional developments have to be incorporated into your work.

### **□ What Additional Research Is Needed?**

- There are often times when added research would be required to make it easier for a study to go forward. Your research plans could include an analysis of the methods of study that could work in the future and what points about a topic could be reviewed in such studies.
  
- The recommendations that are incorporated into your paper can certainly be important to your work. Be certain when writing your paper that you have clear recommendations that are easy to follow and can be utilized right and are not overly complicated or tough to use in some way.



**The End**