

Report structure

Technical Information and Communication 1DV510

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Activity

- 1) Go to <http://lnu.se/ub>
- 2) Search for the article *Enabling Good Work Habits in Software Developers through Reflective Goal-Setting* by Meyer et al. (2021)
- 3) What parts of the article can you identify?
- 4) What metainformation about the article can you find?



Structure of an academic paper

English	Svenska
Title page	Titelsida
Abstract	Sammandrag
Table of contents	Innehållsförteckning
1. Introduction	Inledning
1.1 Aim and research questions	Syfte och frågeställningar
2. Previous research/background	Tidigare forskning
3. Method	Material och Metod
4. Results	Resultat
5. Discussion	Diskussion
6. Conclusion	Slutsatser
References	Källförteckning (referenser)
Appendices	Bilagor



Structure of an academic paper

Chapters 2 and 3 n/a in the case of secondary research (sve: litteraturstudier)

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Chapters 5 and 6 can be merged



Typical report structure in this course

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Title page

NB! Use the university template for your report until you are ready with LaTeX

English

<https://moodle.lnu.se/mod/resource/view.php?id=4076098>

Svenska

<https://moodle.lnu.se/mod/resource/view.php?id=4076099>





Linnæus University
Sweden

Document type

Heading
Subheading



Author: Name
Supervisor: Name
Examiner: Name
Date: XXXX
Subject: XXXX
Level: XXXX
Course code: XX9999



Abstract

What: summary of the report that includes aim/research questions, method, main results and conclusions.

State the actual results not their description!

Function: to give the reader an overview of the report.

Form: often in English, 150-250 words.

When: written after everything else

Keywords: 3–6 main concepts in your study



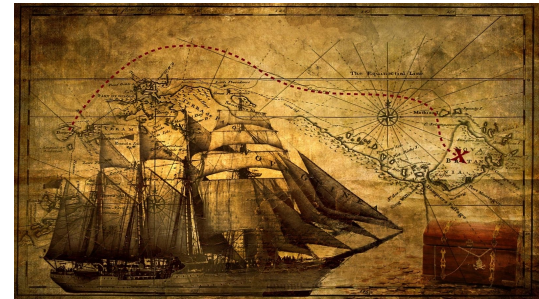
Reports written in Swedish should have abstracts and keywords both in Swedish and English

Introduction

What: background, rationale, aim and research questions

Function: to introduce your report to the reader

When: in the beginning and then revised at the end



Do revise your introduction according to the feedback received on Draft 1!

Previous research

This will be your chapter with results unless you choose another method than secondary research

What: a survey of the previous research on your topic (most influential studies)

Function: to give the reader an overview of what has been done and researched previously

Internal structure: thematic

NB! theme-driven not author-driven



Method

What: description of what you did to achieve the aim of your report and what data you have examined; often a justification for the choice of the method.

Function: to convince your reader that your report is trustworthy (validity and reliability).

Some data collection methods

- Labs
- Secondary research
- Interviews/Questionnaires
- Experiment



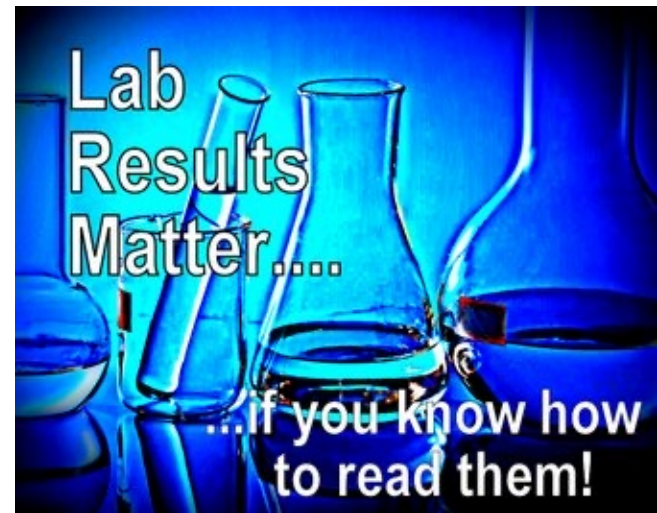
Results

What: description of your results; in some disciplines - analysis of the results.

Function: report the results of your findings in relation to the research questions.

Some advice

- divide into suitable subchapters that address each research question
- comment only if the results need explanation
- in technical disciplines: do not evaluate the results (be "objective")



Discussion

Function: to show the reader that you have answered your RQs and you are able to reason in a persuasive way

What to do:

- Interpret, explain and discuss your findings in relation to the aim and RQs
- Relate the findings to previous research
- Explain possible consequences of the results
- Demonstrate the significance of the study. So what?
- Report limitations of your study

Big No-No:

- Do not add any new factual information or new references



Conclusion

Function: to summarise the study

What to do:

- Identify real world applications of your findings, if any
- Draw a conclusion about the results
- Suggest areas of further research

In this report: you may merge discussion with conclusion into one chapter as subchapters/sections.



Discussion vs Conclusion

Discussion

According to the results, Chinese children have higher percentages of egalitarian choices than American ones in all three games (see figures 1 to 3). The differences suggest that there exist cultural differences in the development of altruism, and that Chinese children tend to have a higher development of altruism. This is mainly due to the fact that China is a collective society and values sharing, while America is an individualist society and values individual benefits.

The results also show that the percentage of egalitarian choices increases with age in both groups (see figures 1 to 3). This suggests that older children are more willing to share, a finding which confirms Fehr's (2008) research.

However, the number of children investigated is limited to 200, which is not big enough to represent the whole population. Moreover, we only chose children from a particular region instead of selecting them from a wide geographical range, which challenges the representativeness of the sample. In addition, we ignored the possible differences between girls and boys. Therefore, the experiment can be improved if we pay more attention to these factors, by choosing a larger and more diversified sample.

Conclusion

The results suggest that there are cultural differences in the development of altruism, and Chinese children tend to have a higher development of altruism than American children. A possible further question to study would be to examine if these suggested cultural differences have changed in time, are changing or may change.

Some issues to remember

- Start a new page for each chapter
- Formulate your aim in ONE not too long sentence.
- Always have some text after a heading (often metatext)

1. Introduction

Digital piracy has received much attention in connection to ...

1.1 Aim and research questions

This report examines ... or The aim of this report is ...

- Do not overuse subheadings
- Support your text with visuals but do NOT use visuals instead of text.

Read about how to use visuals in your report:

<https://moodle.lnu.se/mod/resource/view.php?id=4076102>



Further reading

English: Björk et al. (1997), ch. 2

Svenska: Walla (2004), kap. 4



References

Strömquist, Siv (2006). *Uppsatshandboken: råd och regler för utformningen av examensarbeten och vetenskapliga uppsatser*. 4. uppl. Uppsala: Hallgren & Fallgren.

Vannerstål, A. (2014). *Lecture materials for course in Technical information and communication*. Växjö.



Next session: Coherence and unity

November, 15

10.15-12.00

Linné

