Materials for Writing Research Papers

How to Write a Psych Research Paper: <http://www.onlinepsychologydegree.net/2013/04/30/how-to-write-a-psych-research-paper/>

Thesis Statements and Introductions

<http://www.bucks.edu/media/bcccmedialibrary/pdf/ThesisStatementsandIntroductionsJuly08_000.pdf>

How to Write in APA Style

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Introductions and Conclusions

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/legal-writing-scholarship/writing-center/upload/Bolles-Introductions-and-Conclusions-for-Scholarly-Papers.pdf>

# **Using "I" and "You"**

It's okay to use 'I' in research papers, even though many writers believe it is not. Just be sure that you don't end up expressing your opinion where you should be presenting facts.

Avoid using "you," for two reasons:

a. Addressing the reader as "you" assumes the material in the paper applies to the reader, and it likely does not.

b. "You" is often an ambiguous term that can refer to anyone.  Academic writing must be specific.

E.g., "Canvas is hard to navigate.  ~~You have no idea where anything is~~."  "Students have no idea where anything is," or "I have no idea where anything is," etc. In other words, be specific.

**Avoid Weakening Expressions**

Avoid using statements that make you sound weak or unsure of what you are saying. These include phrases such as the following:

 I think/don’t think

 I believe/don’t believe

 I feel/don’t feel

 In my opinion

 It makes sense/doesn’t make sense to me that . . .

 I accept/don’t accept

Although it is appropriate to use these phrases in conversation, in an academic paper they have the effect of making you sound like you don’t want to take a firm stand.

Remember that the only two places where you can express an opinion in your paper are the Introduction and the Conclusion, and even there, you should omit the above phrases. Instead use phrases like, “It could be,” It may be,” It is possible that,” “It is likely/unlikely that . . . ,” etc. If you use these, however, make sure you have enough data to suggest that they are in fact possibilities, or not possibilities, depending on the phrase.

Sample APA Paper

[file:///C:/Users/jshay/Desktop/Sample%20In-Text%20Citations.pdf](file:///C%3A/Users/jshay/Desktop/Sample%20In-Text%20Citations.pdf)