

Faculty of Community Services

Academic Support & Resource Centre

Steps for Writing & Organizing Your MRP

- 1) **Choose a topic**
- 2) **Literature review.** Keep track of the research you read in a research matrix.
 - a. Keep in mind the following questions:
 - i. Who are the major authors currently researching this topic?
 - ii. What is the foundation of this topic (when was it introduced or defined?)
 - iii. What are the major controversies in the literature related to this topic?
 - b. Try to identify gaps: What isn't yet known about this topic?
- 3) **Propose a research question.** This question should address a gap that you identified by reviewing the literature.
- 4) **Choose a research methodology and theoretical framework.** You should be able to justify that your research methodology is the best way to answer the question you have posed.
- 5) **Design your study.** Consider the following (not an exhaustive list):
 - a. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants
 - b. How many participants you will include
 - c. How you will recruit participants
 - d. What type of data you will collect
 - e. How this data will be collected (be specific and thorough)
 - f. Method of analyzing the data
 - g. Identify ethical considerations
- 6) **Prepare a report for the Ethical Review Board**
- 7) **Conduct your study**
- 8) **Analyze the data as you outlined in the design phase**
- 9) **Write your paper!**

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How to Organize Your MRP

a. Introduction

- i. The introduction should include a review of the most important literature, and should explain why your project is important. By the end of the introduction, your reader should find it obvious why you posed your research question.
- ii. Your research question should appear towards the end of your introduction.

b. Methods

- i. Describe what you did in detail. A reader should be able to replicate your study from your methods section. Include the methods of data analysis.

c. Results

- i. Describe the data. Point out interesting or surprising trends. Avoid discussing the significance of the data, just make it clear to the reader what you found. If applicable, think carefully about how you might present your data in graphs or tables.

d. Discussion

- i. Discuss how your results fit into the literature about this topic. Do your results support a particular theory? Where there any aspects of your results that disagree with a particular theory? Try to explain why you may have obtained results that are different from other researchers. What do your results imply about practice in your field?
- ii. Your discussion section should include a paragraph about the limitations of the study. What could you have done to obtain more accurate results?

e. Conclusion

- i. Restate the most important findings and their implications.
- ii. Relate back to your introduction: Based on your findings, what is the answer to your research question?