

Suggested structure:

- I. Introduction and research question
 - a. State the problem. First paragraph - “attention grabber”
 - b. What is your question and why is it important? Make your research question as precise as possible, and clearly identifiable within the text. Ideally try to keep the key question in up to 3 lines of text
 - c. Hypotheses and how do you want to analyze it (Empirical/ theoretical/ literature review etc.)
 - d. Optional: state your main findings already (up to 5 lines)
 - e. Optional: structure of the paper

- II. Literature review
 - a. Explain context (e.g. FTA, expansion phases, etc.)
 - b. What have others done before you to treat this question?
 - i. Optional: keep your review critical and relate it more to your own question
 - c. Explain your choice of methodology
 - i. If you are aware of issues you know you cannot solve in two months, state that.

- III. Methodology and Empirical analysis
 - a. Describe empirical model (variables, why you chose what) and restate your hypothesis
 - b. Data – where did you gather it from, optional: descriptive statistics
 - c. Output and analysis

- IV. Discussion and Conclusion
 - a. Restate your question, and discuss what you did and what you found
 - b. Optional: policy implications?
 - c. Suggestions for further research?

Note! II.c. part can also be placed in the beginning of the methodology section

Tips:

- Introduction: move from general to specific
- Do not place the full SPSS/Stata output in the main body of the paper. Make tables for yourself that capture only what you are interested in, and leave the full output for the appendix
- Avoid redundant sentences, or without much added value e.g. “Due to globalization, trade is becoming more important.”
- Try not to exceed two lines for a sentence
- Keep it concise! Do not write something you would not like to read yourself.
- You can import a reference directly from google scholar, or use <http://www.citationmachine.net/>, APA style
- **You are not answering something because no one else did it before (might be for a reason!), but because you find it a relevant question to answer!**