



## SHIELD: Journal of Studies on Human Interaction, Education, and Language Development

DOI: <https://doi.org/xxxxxxx>

Journal homepage: <https://journal.venfri.org/index.php/shield>

ISSN: 24xx-6xxx (Print) ISSN: 24xx-123x (Electronic), Vol. x, No. x, 202x, pp. xx-xx

*Type of paper (Declare if it is an Original Research, Academic Essay, etc. Refer to [Author Guidelines](#))*

**A title should be the fewest possible words that accurately describe the content of the paper (left, Bold, 16pt, 9-15 words)**

**First Author's Full Name<sup>1</sup>, Second Author's Full Name<sup>2</sup>, Third<sup>3</sup> (10 pt)**

<sup>1</sup> Current affiliation's institution, Institution's city location, Institution's country location (9 pt)

<sup>2</sup> Current affiliation's institution, Institution's city location, Institution's country location (9 pt)

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### Article Info

#### **Article history:**

Received :

Revised :

Accepted :

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#### **Keywords alphabetical):**

*(10pt,*

First keyword

Second keyword

Third keyword

Fourth keyword

Fifth keyword



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### Abstract (English: 10 PT)

This document is the SHIELD Journal 'camera-ready' manuscript template will look like. The Abstract should be 200 to 275 words in length, written in the past tense, and in font size 9. Avoid abbreviations and citations. The Abstract should be informative and completely self-explanatory, providing: (1) a clear statement of the problem, (2) the research gaps of the study, (3) the proposed approach or solution, (4) the key details of the method (i.e. research design, data, data collection and analysis technique), (5) 2-3 major findings and (6) the implications of the results or the significance of the study's contributions. A well-prepared abstract enables the reader to identify the basic content of a document quickly and accurately, to determine its relevance to their interests, and thus to decide whether to read the document in its entirety. Moreover, the length of a camera-ready manuscript (excluding abstract, table(s), figure(s), and references) should be between 6,000-18,000 words for an original research paper, minimum 4,000 words for a literature review/overview paper, 3,500-6,000 for academic essay, and 3,500-4,000 for research/editorial notes. On the left, the keyword list provides the opportunity to add keywords, used by the indexing and abstracting services to increase the ease with which interested parties can locate this paper (minimum and maximum 5 keywords). The body text of paragraphs of the paper must use Calisto MT font type and be in font size 10, but the abstract text, table, chart, interview excerpts should be in font size 9 to distinguish them. Finally, use British academic spelling instead of American spelling (see: [guideline of British vs American spelling](#)).

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**Corresponding Author:** Corresponding author's last name, email

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## 1. Introduction (12 pt)

The introduction is a little different from the short and concise abstract. The reader needs to know the background to your research and, most importantly, why your research is important in this context. What critical question does your research address? Why should the reader be interested?

The purpose of the Introduction is to stimulate the reader's interest and to provide pertinent background information necessary to understand the rest of the paper. You must summarise the problem to be addressed, give background on the subject, discuss previous research on the topic, and explain *exactly* what the paper will address, why, and how. You need to clarify what research gap(s) are you trying to fill so that the novelty and significance of your paper is clear from other similar studies in the past. Justification of why you are doing this study is important!

A good thing to avoid is making your introduction into a minireview. There is a huge amount of literature out there, but as a scientist you should be able to pick out the things that are most relevant to your work and explain why. Instead of only talking about the general context or common-sense facts which would be unnecessary, show the editor/reviewer/reader that you really understand your area of research and that you can get straight to the most important issues that specifically interest you. Do not overburden the reader by making the introduction's overview/status quo/larger context too long. Get to the key parts sooner rather than later.

If you need to use bullet points, use the style below and do not create points excessively. Things you should include in the introduction:

- 1) Begin the Introduction by providing a *concise background* account of the problem studied. Define any abbreviations or specialised/regional terms, e.g. Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- 2) State the *objective* of the investigation. Your research objective is the most important part.
- 3) Establish the *significance* of your work: Why was there a need to conduct the study?
- 4) Introduce the reader to the pertinent literature. Do not give a full history of the topic. Only quote previous work having direct bearing on the present problem to provide a concise discussion of the results and findings of other studies, so the reader understands the big picture.

Be concise and aware of who will be reading your manuscript and make sure the Introduction is directed to that audience. Move from general to specific, from the problem in the real world to the literature to your research. Last, please avoid making a subheading/section in Introduction.

## **2. Literature Review (12 pt)**

This section is where you must review the *current literature* of your research variables—do not give a general theory using only one or two sources, outdated sources, or no source at all. You show your understanding by analysing and then synthesising the information to (a) determine what has already been written on a topic, (b) provide an overview of key concepts, (c), identify major relationships or patterns, (d) identify strengths and weaknesses, (e) identify any gaps in the research, (f) identify any conflicting evidence, and (g) provide a solid background to a research paper's investigation.

### **2.1 Subheading (11 pt)**

Whether you wish to create subsections or not is up to you. Subsections should be concerned about the key variables of your overall topic, in which you would review the current literature of these variables—*not just* a general overview of the theory or description of an application/product. Minimum 3 paragraphs. The title of the subheading should be properly capitalised.

### **2.2 Subheading (12 pt)**

Minimum 3 paragraphs. Maximum number of subsections is four; the bulk of an original research paper should be the Results section and Discussion section, not the Literature Review section.

Note: we do not encourage excessive smaller themes or bullet points.

### 3. Method (12 pt)

Explain *clearly* how you conducted your research order to: (1) enable readers to evaluate the work performed and (2) permit others to replicate your research. You must describe exactly what you did: what and how experiments were run, what, how much, how often, where, when, and why equipment and materials were used. The main consideration is to ensure that enough detail is provided to verify your findings and to enable the replication of the research. You should maintain a balance between brevity (you cannot describe every technical issue) and completeness (you need to give adequate detail so that readers know what happened). Things you should include in the method:

- 1) Define the population and the methods of sampling.
- 2) Describe the instrumentation, the procedures and their time frame, and the analysis plan.
- 3) Describe any approaches to ensure validity and reliability.
- 4) State any assumptions that you have while conducting the study.
- 5) Describe the scope and/or limitations of the methodology you used.

In the social and behavioural sciences, it is important to always provide sufficient information to allow other researchers to adopt or replicate your methodology. This information is particularly important when a new method has been developed or an innovative use of an existing method is utilised. Please avoid making multiple subsections if each consists of less than 3 paragraphs and do not overuse bullet points/numbering.

If the type of your study is an Academic Essay, you are not required to write a Method section.

### 4. Results (12 pt)

The purpose of the Results is to state your findings and to answer the questions posed in the Introduction, explain how the results support the answers and, how the answers fit in with existing knowledge on the topic. Data must be clearly displayed to support your analysis.

In the SHIELD Journal, **Results must be separated from the Discussion section.** *The Results section* should focus on providing the data, so do not cite any literature in this section. You should write your results section in the past tense: you are describing what you have done in the past. Every result included **MUST** have a method set out in the methods section. Conversely, every method should also have some results given so, if you choose to exclude certain experiments from the results, make sure that you remove mention of the method as well. In a neat reversal, *the Discussion section* should not contain results, which means no numerical results or new outcomes that have not been introduced in previous sections. The Discussion section should focus on critically analysing the data given in the Results by citing the literature to support its arguments.

Only library studies (such as studies using Systematic Literature Review) and academic essays may combine these sections into one *Results and Discussion section*.

#### 4.1 Tables and Figures

Tables and figures should have a clear, descriptive title, which functions as the topic sentence of the table. These data display formats play the role of presenting an easy-to-read overview of your research results, but do not include too many tables, charts, or figures in this section. If the data you must present is extensive and would make the tables and figures too cluttered or long, consider making them a part of the Appendix or in a separate file as supplemental material.

When explaining your data, refer, but do not repeat. Use the text to draw the reader's attention to the significance and key points of the table or figure, but do not repeat details. For example, you could highlight your main finding (e.g., "We found that the treatment was effective in only 22% of the cases, as shown in Chart 1"), but do not repeat exact values (e.g., "As Table 2 shows, 27% of the subjects chose Option 1, 12% chose Option 2, 10% chose Option 3, and 46% chose Option 4"). This defeats the very purpose (efficiency and clarity) of having a table or figure.

**Table 1.** Title of the table should be placed **above** the table (10 pt)

Column	Column	Column
Size of the table should cover the whole length of the paper from left to right.	No vertical borders, only horizontal ones for the title columns (and the Total row if there is any)	The font size for the table's title and contents is 10.
DO NOT use text wrapping; it will mess up the organisation of the paper during revising and editing.	If the table is cut between pages, repeat table header on subsequent pages (see <a href="#">How to repeat header row</a> ).	If the contents have more than 10 rows to save page space, change the font size of the table's contents to 9, but the title above it should still be 10.
Etc.		

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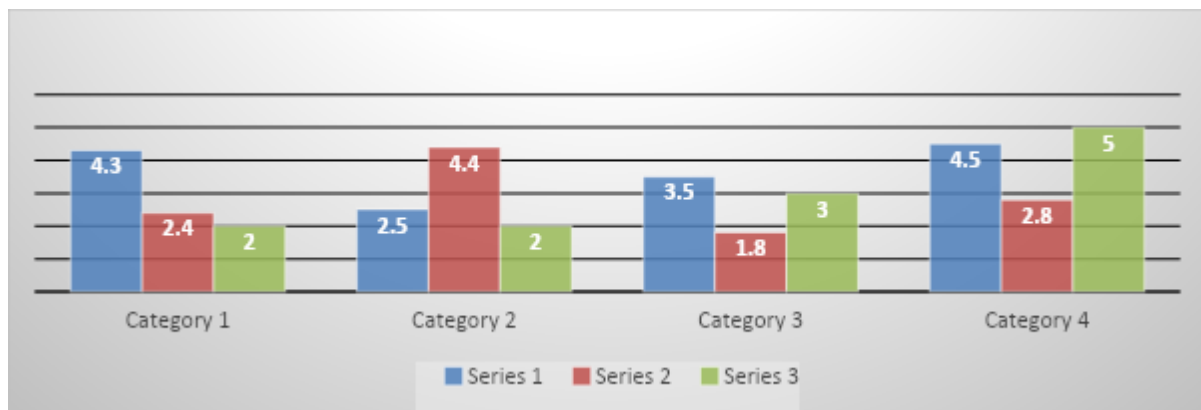
**Total**

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*Source (optional): If the table you use is from another paper or source, please cite them here.*

Use tables to present a summary of your results effectively. Generally, use a table format to (1) show many and precise numerical values and other specific data in a small space, (2) compare data values or characteristics among related items, and (3) show the presence of specific characteristics.

When referring to the contents of the table, point it out in the body text as Table 1, not the table above or the table below. The table of data should be presented first, then followed with the paragraphs that discusses the table's contents. Do not needlessly repeat everything that is on the table in the following paragraphs.



**Figure 1.** Title of the figure should be placed **below** the figure (10 pt)

*Figure legend (optional).* Write a brief description of the figure to explain key messages if the figure is a documentation picture.

Use figures to present the data in a visually appealing way. Use this format if you intend to (1) summarise research results, (2) show trends, patterns, and relationships across and between data sets when the general pattern is more important than the exact data values, and (3) present a visual explanation of a sequence of events, procedures, geographic features, or physical characteristics.

If you are presenting your data in the form of bar graph, pie chart, frequency histogram, scatterplot, and other kinds of data-focused illustrations, the numbers and texts must be readable (in font size 10). Simple charts such as pie charts and bar charts should be editable (copied from Microsoft Excel; do not present them in the form of a screenshot) to allow for easy adjustments if need be. The figure should be bordered in a black line that spans the horizontal length of the paper. They must also be entirely original, unpublished artwork. Font type for the figure's text should be Calisto MT as well. Do not use wrap text for the figure!



**Figure 2.** Title of the figure should be placed **below** the picture (10 pt)

*Figure legend (optional).* Write a brief description of the figure to explain key messages if the figure is a documentation picture.

If you are presenting pictures from documentations, make sure that the vertical length is 2.5 cm to not take up too much of the page. Ensure image clarity and formatted in Windows bitmap (.bmp), not .jpg or other extensions. Do not use wrap text for the figure!

## 4.2 Excerpts/Quotations

To include excerpts or quotations from literature, make the transcripts in font size 9, indented 0.2 cm from the left side of the page, and the code or label aligned to the right. When you were analysing your interview transcripts, you should have created your own coding styles to identify and categorise the themes, so you should briefly explain the sequence of your coding in the Method and use them with each of your interview excerpts to clarify its sources. An example of an excerpt code can be: Participant/Theme 1/Sample 27/Hour:Minute the excerpt started in the recording, or Actor[Video 3/Category 4]Data 18/Hour:Minute. Participant might be Student 1 (coded as S1) and so on or initials of the name Microsoft Word (coded as MW). There is no specific requirement for the excerpt code, but the origin of each excerpt should be clear (see: [Guideline to coding transcripts](#)).

“Words in languages other than English ought to be italicised. The indentation of the excerpt/quotations should be slightly forward/different than the body paragraph indents to differentiate the formatting between the body text and the data set. Interview excerpts should also be given inside quotation marks.” — **Excerpt code (9pt)**

*“Petit a petit, l’oiseau fait son nid.”*

“Little by little, the bird makes its nest.” — **Excerpt code (9pt)**

Do not forget to always provide paragraphs below the data displayed where authors provide their analysis/interpretations. It is easy to inflate the interpretation of the results. Be careful that your interpretation of the results does not go beyond what is supported by the data. The data are the data: nothing more, nothing less. Please avoid and make over interpretation of the results, unwarranted speculation, inflating the importance of the findings, tangential issues or over-emphasise the impact of your research.

## 5. Discussion (12 pt)

The Discussion is considered the heart of the paper and usually requires several writing attempts. The discussion will always connect to the introduction by way of the research questions or hypotheses you posed and the literature you reviewed, but it does not simply repeat or rearrange the introduction; the discussion should always explain how your study has moved the reader's understanding of the research problem forward from where you left them at the end of the introduction.

To make your message clear, the discussion should be kept as short as possible while clearly and fully stating, supporting, explaining, and defending your answers and discussing other important and directly relevant issues. Care must be taken to provides commentary and not a reiteration of the results. Key requirements of the Discussion section:

- 1) Address the problem stated in your introduction and state the major results to *answer the research question(s)*. Do not unnecessarily repeat everything that you have already provided in the Results.
- 2) Emphasise why the results are important. Underline its significance by relating them to expectations and to the literature, clearly stating why they are acceptable and how they are consistent or fit in with previously published knowledge on the topic. Highlight the research novelty of your original research work.
- 3) In this section, cite at least 15 recent and relevant article journals.
- 4) Acknowledge the study's limitations. You may also explain any surprising or inconclusive results.

- 5) Make suggestions for future research. You may want to point out gaps in the research that your study was not able to address at the time or you might notice one part of your results that is very interesting and fascinating for further exploration.

## 6. Conclusion (12 pt)

Conclusion focuses the reader on the important results and how they filled the **research gap**, **research novelty** and its **contributions and implications** to the larger area of study.

## Acknowledgment (12 pt; this segment is not included in the heading numbering)

Give your gratitude to those who professionally or financially aided this research paper. Do not include the names of your family members and friends who were only your moral support.

## References (12 pt; this segment is not included in the heading numbering)

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References must follow the style detailed in the APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition (<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples#>). References should be the most recent and pertinent literature available (about 5-10 years ago). We suggest the use of ENDNOTE, MENDELEY, ZOTERO, or EASYBIB for easy citation. Do not make a footnote or endnote in any format. The line spaces for the references should be 1.0 and the indentation is the opposite of the body text's indentation. Make sure that all references mentioned in the text are listed in the reference section and vice versa and that the spelling of author names and years are consistent.

Please check your references:

- 1) Capitalisation for its titles and journal/publication type categories.
- 2) Use the full doi link if available.
- 3) Minimum 25 citations of current (published within the past 5-10 years) literature. 80% of the citations must be journal articles.

**Appendix (12 pt; optional. Appendix if there is only 1. Appendices if there are more than one.)**

**Appendix 1. Descriptive title. (11 pt)**

Table, figure, list of interview questions, etc.

**Appendix 2. Descriptive title. (11 pt)**

Table, figure, list of interview questions, etc.