

Below is a clear, practical guide for how to **most effectively write the “Summary of Main Findings” section in Chapter 5 (Conclusion)** of an Applied Research Paper/Applied Research Project (ARP/APR). This is written to match doctoral/graduate applied research standards.

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### ✓ Purpose of the “Summary of Main Findings” Section

The Summary of Main Findings is **not a repeat of the entire Chapter 4**, nor is it a place for new interpretation.

Its purpose is to:

1. **Directly answer each Research Question (RQ)** using your analyzed data.
2. Present the **high-level, take-away results** as clearly and concisely as possible.
3. Provide the **bridge** between your results (Chapter 4) and your interpretation (Chapter 5 discussion, implications, recommendations).

Think of it as the **executive summary** of your results.

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### ✓ How to Structure This Section

A highly effective Summary of Main Findings follows this structure:

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#### 1. Restate the Purpose and Research Questions (Briefly)

One short paragraph:

- Reaffirm the study purpose or problem.
- Restate the research questions in concise form.

*Example:*

“The purpose of this applied research project was to evaluate the impact of X intervention on Y outcomes across Z population. This study addressed the following research questions...”

This reminds the reader what you were attempting to answer.

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#### **\*\*2. Summarize Findings Per Research Question**

This is the core of the section.

For each RQ:

1. **State the finding clearly and directly.**
2. **Avoid statistics**, but reference direction and strength (“increased,” “was not significant,” “participants consistently reported...”).
3. **No interpretation**—just what the data revealed.

### Model Sentence Frame

- **RQ1:** *The analysis showed that...*
- **RQ2:** *Findings indicated that...*
- **RQ3:** *Based on participant responses, the most prominent themes were...*

### Example (Quantitative)

#### **RQ1: What is the relationship between instructional coaching and teacher retention?**

*The regression analysis indicated a statistically significant positive relationship, suggesting that teachers who received coaching were more likely to remain employed in the district.*

### Example (Qualitative)

#### **RQ2: How do teachers describe their experience with instructional coaching?**

*Participants described coaching as supportive, responsive to classroom needs, and aligned with professional goals.*

This section should read like a **reader-friendly summary**, not like a statistical report.

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### 3. Highlight Only the Findings That Directly Answer the RQs

Do NOT summarize:

- All tables or figures
- Every subtheme or exploratory detail
- Ancillary or unrelated observations

Instead, emphasize:

- What was most **consistent**

- What was most **impactful**
- What most directly **answers the problem of practice**

A good guiding question:

**If the reader remembered only one paragraph of results, what should it be?**

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#### **4. Identify Patterns or Overarching Insights (Optional but Strong)**

After summarizing per RQ, provide a brief synthesis of how the findings fit together.

Examples:

- “Across all three research questions, results consistently demonstrated that...”
- “Quantitative and qualitative findings aligned in showing that...”
- “The findings suggest a pattern of...”

This moves the reader toward your discussion without interpreting the meaning yet.

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#### **✓ What to Avoid**

To keep this section academically sound:

#### **✗ No new data**

Everything must come from Chapter 4.

#### **✗ No interpretation or implications**

Those belong in Discussion and Recommendations.

#### **✗ No detailed statistics**

Use simple, high-level language.

#### **✗ No literature comparison**

Save that for the “Interpretation of Findings” section.

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#### **✓ Length Expectation**

Typically:

- **1–2 pages** for doctoral ARP/APR
- **1 page** for master’s-level applied projects

It should be:

- Clear
- Concise
- Directly aligned with research questions

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**✓ Template You Can Use**

Here is a ready-to-use template you can paste into your Chapter 5:

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### **Summary of Main Findings**

The purpose of this applied research project was to \_\_\_\_\_ . This study addressed the following research questions: (list RQs).

**RQ1:** \_\_\_\_\_

The findings revealed that \_\_\_\_\_ .

**RQ2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Analysis showed that \_\_\_\_\_ .

**RQ3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Participants reported that \_\_\_\_\_ .

Overall, the results across all research questions indicate that \_\_\_\_\_ . These findings collectively provide a clear picture of \_\_\_\_\_ , and they serve as the foundation for the interpretations, implications, and recommendations presented in the following sections.