

APPENDIX

Useful phrases for inspiration:

Related work

- The paper presented here is based in part on an earlier study
- An earlier *version* of this paper was presented at ...
- ... was published in the *Journal of* ...
- This paper ...
- ... is a revised *version* of ...
- ... has been substantially revised
- ... includes new chapters on ...
- There are new sections on ...
- This paper *etc.* forms part of a larger study of ...
- This paper *etc.* has been *submitted* for publication in ...
- Parts of this study have been or were presented at the *conference* on ...
- Parts of this paper were presented in a *lecture* on ... to ... in April 2007 *etc.*

The aim of your study and outlining the topic

- ... is widely *perceived* as ...
- the question has been raised whether ...
- Present understanding of ... is limited.
- the field of ... is still relatively undeveloped
- there is as yet or at present no consensus on ...
- As yet, no one explanation has gained acceptance.
- there is at present little agreement on the causes of *etc.* ...
- there is at present no general agreement on the causes of *etc.* ...
- there is still *considerable* disagreement on the causes of *etc.* ...
- the *mechanism* by which ... is unknown or not well understood
- the controversial question of ...
- much of our knowledge of ... comes from ...
- the *task* of ... is complicated further by ...
- The *impact* of ... on ... is not easy to determine
- The effect of ... on ... has not been examined in detail.
- its effects on ... have not previously been studied in detail

Importance of the study

- The study is important for a number of reasons:
- The study is of relevance because ...
- It is important to ...
- the importance of ...
- an important aspect of ...
- ... is an important or urgent subject for study
- ... is needed
- ... is necessary
- ... warrants further *investigation*
- ... warrants closer scrutiny or examination
- The problem merits further *investigation*.
- ... is worth examining for its own sake
- ... to shed light on a number of *issues* or problem areas in current *theory*
- Resolution* of this problem would ...
- the *prospect* of a breakthrough in ...
- Other authors have also called for ...
- This study, *thesis*, paper *etc.*
- ... may show or reveal ...
- ... may stimulate the *debate* on ...

Your method or approach

- To investigate whether ..., we analysed GB or analyzed US ...
- ... was or were measured by ...
- ... was determined for each ... by ...
- ... was measured before and after ...
- ... was used to measure ...
- ... was equipped with ...
- ... was transferred to ...
- ... was or is used in the *analysis* of ... to determine ...
- ... provides a useful *estimate* of or for ...
- the *simulation* showed that ...
- in the presence of ...

- in the absence of ...
- after addition of ...
- substitution* of ... for ...
- if the constraints are *relaxed*
- measurements were made or taken at ... sites
- background measurements, samples etc. were taken ...
- ... under these conditions ...
- ... following the *method* outlined in ...
- ... according to standard *criteria*
- ... following standard *procedure*
- ... in accordance with standard procedures
- ... was performed according to a or the standard ... *protocol*
- ... following the manufacturer's *guidelines* or *instructions*
- ... according to the manufacturer's *guidelines* or *instructions*
- ... as *specified* in the manufacturer's *guidelines* or *instructions*
- For this we can use a number of *strategies*
- One *option* here would be to ...
- Adjustment* of ... allows us to ...
- ... is *enhanced* if we ...
- This *method* can be used to obtain ...
- This *technology* enables us to ...
- The most usual *method* is ...
- ... is commonly used in ... to measure etc. ...
- ... by the ... *method*
- ... according to the ... *method*
- ... as previously described by X
- ... using the ... procedures described by X et al.

Your method or approach

- Previous* measurements based on ... have shown that ...
- The *traditional* approach has been to ...
- This *innovation* allows us to ...
- The most *straightforward* way of ... is ...
- This *route* would enable us to ...
- This is the course or *method* adopted here.
- The advantage of this *approach* is that ...
- This *approach* has the advantage of or that ...
- This *approach* has a number of advantages: firstly, ...
- ... gives a better basis for ...
- it combines ... with or and ...
- This *format* allows us to see more clearly how ...
- In this way, we are or were able to *target* ...
- This enables one to *create* ...
- ... allows or enables the *transfer* of ... from ... to ...
- such a *rigid* approach does not allow ...
- this approach gives greater *flexibility*
- this *construction* allows us to ...
- This rather strict *regime* ensures that ...
- By *monitoring* ..., we are or were able to ...
- This allows ... to be examined within the same *framework*.
- In this way, we are able to *eliminate* several of the problems of previous approaches or methods
- One difficulty in ... is ...
- A or one *significant* problem is ...
- Coordination* of ... and ... is essential or particularly difficult
- a compromise
- One strategy would be to ...
- ... avoids this difficulty by ...
- the practical problems *involved* in ...
- an *alternative* way of approaching the problem
- Another way of looking at the question of ...
- If, *however*, we reformulate the question, we ...
- It is impossible to discuss, examine etc. ... without discussing ...
- It is impossible to discuss, examine etc. ... without reference to ...
- ... methodological *issues* ...
- The original or earlier *method* was abandoned because of problems with ...
- Conventional methods, *techniques* etc. are unable to ...

The relationship to other work

- ... has or have been discussed, examined etc. extensively in the literature

- several or various explanations etc. have been suggested in the literature
 - a great many explanations etc. have been put forward for ...
 - The *topic* is not a new one; however, ...
 - There is now a substantial body of *research* or literature or work on ...
 - the wealth of literature on ...
 - Noteworthy studies of ... are ...
 - X's most influential work
 - X and Y, in their influential study of ..., ...
 - ... has been carried out in detail by X
 - The most detailed examination or study of ... to date is ...
 - Initial* observations suggest or *indicate* that ...
 - Previous* studies of or on ... have shown or suggested that ...
 - Results from earlier studies have indicated or suggested that ...
 - Research* conducted in the 1990s etc. indicated that ...
 - this has led some authors to suggest that ...
 - It has been shown or demonstrated repeatedly that ...
 - This view can be found in ...
 - a number of other studies ...
 - In a *preliminary* or an exploratory study, X found that ...
 - ... has been linked to ...
 - ..., which is also known to cause etc. ...
 - ... has been found to have an adverse effect on ...
 - ... has been shown to play an important or a pivotal *role* in ...
 - X first remarked on the similarity, relationship or connection between ...
 - Originally suggested by X in 1980 etc., ... was subsequently developed further by Y
 - X's discovery of ...
 - ... paved the way for ...
 - ... was taken up by others ...
 - ... provided the impetus for further *research* on etc. ...
 - ... was the *trigger* for an explosion of research on ...
 - ... contributed to the development of ...
 - ... marked a *major* turning point in ...
 - X showed that ...
 - X and Y's study was the first to show etc. that or how ...
 - ... was the first *major* work in or on ...
 - Before X, it was widely believed that ...
- a long-standing question
- the long-standing issue of ...
 - ... are known to exist
 - a new line of inquiry

Contrasting work

- Another view is that ...
- ..., *whereas* X believes that ...
- a competing *theory*
- This contrasts with ... who found that ...
- In *contrast*, a study of ... found or reported or showed ...
- this *interpretation* has recently been challenged, however
- X's *theory*, explanation etc. has been challenged on various or several grounds:
- Although *research* suggests that ..., *previous* studies have ...
- Although early work or results suggested that ..., *subsequent* studies have shown ...
- Current *theory*, as it stands, does not adequately account for ...
- A number of *aspects* of the problem require further *investigation*.
- Although a number of studies exist on ...,
- ... still a great deal of disagreement
- ... has been hotly debated in the literature
- a bone of contention
- a *source* or hotbed of *controversy*
- Controversy* remains regarding ...
- Although controversial, ...
- critics of ... *theory* would argue that ...
- X and X's *response* is that ...
- X's views have failed to gain *widespread* acceptance
- X has been criticized US and GB or criticised GB for failing to take account of etc. ...
- We *rejected* X's hypothesis on the basis of or that ...
- This is reflected in X's findings that ...
- Previous studies have *ignored* ...
- The question has been raised whether ...
- There are increasing doubts about ...
- Many scholars doubt, however, whether or that ...
- Other authors have also called for ...

- Many authors have stressed the importance of ...
- Few authors would dispute that ...

The relationship to other work

- A number of other studies have argued or suggested that ...
- The *traditional* approach has been to ...
- An *alternative* ..., suggested by X, is ...
- However, recent *research* by X ... suggests that ...
- X and Y have also pointed out or to ...
- Researchers have traditionally been *reluctant* to ...
- Researchers adopting this position include for example ...
- ... is beginning to gain acceptance as ...
- a foot in both camps
- Rather than engaging in the *debate* on ..., I would like to ...
- Rather than adding yet another explanation for ..., we would like instead to *focus* on ...
- Rather than going over old ground, ...
- In *contrast* to earlier studies, ...
- In *contrast* to *previous research* on ..., this study ...
- Unlike some or many or most earlier studies, this study ...
- This study contends that ...
- This study questions the widely held view that or of ...
- This study differs from *previous research* in a number of respects:
- At the risk of offending some readers, ...

The limitations of current knowledge

- At present, little is known about ...
- Very little is known about ...
- There is as yet no clear *evidence* of or for ...
- Little attention has been paid to ...
- There has been as yet no systematic examination of ...
- Research* in this *area* has been limited to ...
- ... *research* has concentrated on ...
- Very little has been written on or about ...
- ... is or are frequently overlooked in discussions of ...
- ... has rarely been done before
- ... is not yet clearly or completely understood
- Our understanding to date has been limited to ...
- ... has received *very little* attention in the literature
- there is as yet or at present no consensus on ...
- there is at present no general agreement on the causes of etc. ...
- no satisfactory account or explanation of ... has been given or provided
- the misleading statement that ...
- It is *somewhat* of an overstatement or exaggeration to claim that ...
- ... contains a number of inaccuracies
- a number of controversial viewpoints
- In fact, the problem is more *complex*
- The *author* fails to take ... into account
- X and Y take little or no account of ...
- The authors have, however, failed to take account of ...
- There is little or no systematic examination of ...
- The study fails to answer the question of or whether ...
- A problem with this argument is that ...
- the same problem also applies to ...
- There is little or no *evidence* to suggest that ...

Their results or conclusions

- X's explanation depends on or relies on ...
- The *evidence* for ... is inconclusive
- The reasoning here is problematic
- the conclusions are *somewhat* weak
- X's arguments ... are unconvincing
- this, however, holds only for ...
- the claim or argument that ... simply does not hold water
- ... is not *sufficient* argument for the existence of etc. ...
- this assumption is rather *arbitrary*, however
- X's main assumption that ... is debatable or problematic
- We would dispute X's *conclusion* that ...
- X's explanation for or of ... is rather or highly speculative
- this *contradiction* has also been pointed out by X
- an *error* in the calculation

- X's figures, results, conclusions etc. should, however, be treated with caution
- The results should be treated with a degree of or some or *considerable* caution
- X's conclusions would carry more weight if ...
- further clarification of ... is *required*
- X and Y fail to explain ...
- the causal relationship between ... and ... needs to be clarified
- a number of valid criticisms
- ... violates the *principle* of ...

Interpreting findings

- It is not clear why ...
- It is not immediately *obvious* how or why ...
- ... may have been indirectly influenced by ...
- although the *mechanism* is not completely understood
- The results are unclear or inconclusive or contradictory
- ... can be interpreted in a number of ways
- The *impact* of ... on ... is not easy to determine
- The *data* cannot adequately explain ...
- ... complicates the *assessment* of the *data*
- Interpretation* of the *data* is complicated by ...
- The results are to some extent misleading
- The results must be interpreted with a degree of or the utmost caution
- The findings are not *consistent* with ...
- The disparity between the results may be due to ...
- These disparities may reflect ...
- The discrepancy between ... may be explained by ...
- These *apparent* differences may be explained by ...
- While it may seem unlikely that ..., it is important to remember that ...
- The reasons for ... remain unclear

(Source: <http://www.englishforresearch.com/editing/index.htm>)