

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>)

Writing help: Parenthesis and ellipsis

Adding emphasis to a quotation

If you wish to add emphasis to a quotation, for example by italics, use the words *emphasis added*, *my italics*, or *italics* + your initials after the quotation:

'Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, *without distinction of any kind ...*'
A Universal Declaration of Human Rights (emphasis added)

To show that the emphasis was in the original quotation and not added by you, use *italics in original* or *emphasis in the original*, for example:

'It was all very well to say "Drink me", but the wise little Alice was not going to do *that* in a hurry.'
Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (emphasis in the original)

Adding a comment or clarification to a quotation

Use square brackets when you wish to add a comment or clarification within a quotation. For example in Shakespeare's Sonnet 18:

'Shall I compare thee [you] to a summer's day?

Thou art [you are] more lovely and more temperate.'

By convention, square brackets show that the comment or clarification was added by you and not by the original author(s).

Omitting words from a quotation

The ellipsis sign of three dots ... is used to show where you have removed text from an original quotation.

For example from the American Declaration of Independence:

'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal ... with certain ... rights ... among these ... life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'

Be consistent in whether or not you add spaces before and after the ellipsis sign. Some writers use four dots where an omission spans two or more sentences.

(Howe, S. & Henriksson, K. (2000 - 2007). *PhraseBook for Writing Papers and Research in English*. The Whole World Company Press, Cambridge.)