Strategi Penyusunan Pembahasan Jurnal Sesuai Standar Jurnal Bereputasi

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Nurse Caring and Sharing
PS Magister Keperawatan Universitas Brawijaya
Malang, 24 Oktober 2020
What are we going to discuss?

• Introduction

• Approaches to the writing process of the ‘Discussion’ section

• Useful tips!
Introduction

Table 1  Typical structure of a research paper

Introduction
State why the problem you address is important
State what is lacking in the current knowledge
State the objectives of your study or the research question

Methods
Describe the context and setting of the study
Specify the study design
Describe the ‘population’ (patients, doctors, hospitals, etc.)
Describe the sampling strategy
Describe the intervention (if applicable)
Identify the main study variables
Describe data collection instruments and procedures
Outline analysis methods

Results
Report on data collection and recruitment (response rates, etc.)
Describe participants (demographic, clinical condition, etc.)
Present key findings with respect to the central research question
Present secondary findings (secondary outcomes, subgroup analyses, etc.)

Discussion
State the main findings of the study
Discuss the main results with reference to previous research
Discuss policy and practice implications of the results
Analyse the strengths and limitations of the study
Offer perspectives for future work
Introduction

• Discussion is about how the findings fit into the body of literature appropriately introduced in the Background

• It gives meaning to the results:
  • “why” this finding
  • places the results in context of theory or conceptual framework by assesses importance of findings
  • limitations if any in the methods
  • identifies new areas for exploration
  • what next?
Introduction

• Begin discussion from:
  • the principal findings
  • interpret in context of literature, for e.g. are the findings consistent with previous research or do they counter previous findings?
  • discuss why this might be
  • how the results might be generalized
  • what might be the implications (e.g. clinical, methodological, theoretical etc)
Introduction

• The Discussion section is used to expand knowledge in the field of study by putting the findings into the context of the previous researches from the literature review

• If the results are very different, either it is a new discovery, or there are flaws in study design

• Share your findings, has it contributed to the knowledge in the field, or not but be careful to be too broad and generalize your result to change wider world!

• Self reflection is important to mention the limitations of the study design, sampling and what improvements you propose
Approaches to the writing process of the ‘Discussion’ section

How to write a discussion section?

Öner Şanlı, Selçuk Erdem, Tzevat Tefik
Approaches to the writing process of the ‘Discussion’ section

• How should the main points of ‘Discussion’ section be constructed?

• How should the intermediate paragraphs of the Discussion section be formulated?

• What are the common mistakes made in writing the Discussion section?

• What points should be paid attention about writing rules, and grammar?
How should the main points of ‘Discussion’ section be constructed?

• Generally the length of the ‘Discussion’ section should not exceed the sum of other sections (introduction, material and methods, and results)

• It should be completed within 6-7 paragraphs

• Each paragraph should not contain more than 200 words

• The ‘Discussion’ section can be generally divided into 3 separate paragraphs:
  • Introductory paragraph
  • Intermediate paragraphs
  • Concluding paragraph
Introductory paragraph

• The introductory paragraph starts with an undeniable sentence, and proceeds with a part addressing the following questions:
  • On what issue we have to concentrate, discuss or elaborate?
  • What solutions can be recommended to solve this problem?
  • What will be the new, different, and innovative issue?
  • How will our study contribute to the solution of this problem
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Introduction Section</th>
<th>Discussion Section</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>To help reader understand the need to conduct the research study</td>
<td>To help reader interpret the results and understand the implications of the study</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>findings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Question</strong></td>
<td>Narrates the hypothesis or the research question</td>
<td>Provides answer to the research question and states if the study findings support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>the hypothesis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contents</strong></td>
<td>Information about the current state of knowledge, enlisting knowledge gaps,</td>
<td>Summary of study findings, explanation of study findings, comparison with available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>importance of bridging the knowledge gap and stating the hypothesis or the research</td>
<td>evidence, enlisting strengths and weaknesses of the study, interpretation of the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>question</td>
<td>whole evidence, discussion on the external validity and impact of the study</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>findings and recommendations for future course of action</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flow and</strong></td>
<td>From general information to specific study objectives</td>
<td>From specific study findings to implications for the relevant general population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
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</table>
Concluding paragraph

• In the last paragraph of the Discussion section “strong points” of the study should be mentioned using “constrained”, and “not too strongly assertive” statements

• Indicating limitations of the study will reflect objectivity of the authors, and provide answers to the questions which will be directed by the reviewers of the journal

• On the other hand in the last paragraph, future directions or potential clinical applications may be emphasized
How should the intermediate paragraphs of the Discussion section be formulated?

• “Divide and conquer” tactics

• Accordingly, the findings of the study are determined in order of their importance, and a paragraph is constructed for each finding

• Each paragraph begins with an “indisputable” introductory sentence about the topic to be discussed

• This sentence basically can be the answer to the question “What have we found?”

• Then a sentence associated with the subject matter to be discussed is written

• Subsequently, in the light of the current literature this finding is discussed, new ideas on this subject are revealed, and the paragraph ends with a concluding remark
Figure 1. Divide and Conquer tactics
What are the common mistakes made in writing the Discussion section?

• The text is too long. Maybe 20 or 50 words over the journal’s word limit is acceptable provisionally, but no more than 100 words

• The Discussion is not focused on the aims of the study as explained at the end of the Introduction

• The section discusses some data that are not reported in the Results section

• The comparisons between your study and other studies sound like a shopping list, with no interpretation or explanation
  • “Our results were higher than … but lower than …, and similar to … .” Readers don’t want a boring list of differences
  • They want to learn from you why there are similarities and differences between your data and those from other studies
What are the common mistakes made in writing the Discussion section?

• The section does not progress steadily from specific to general

• There is no mention of the limitations and strengths of the study

• The conclusions contain extrapolation to broader contexts that are not addressed by the variables and experimental design of the study. Readers will not be convinced if you exaggerate the scope, importance or generalizability of the conclusions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitfall</th>
<th>Corrective Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providing results in great detail</td>
<td>A gist of results is enough to provide context for the discussion that follows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussing observations not reported in the Results section</td>
<td>Only observations reported in the Results section should be discussed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding discussion on unexpected results</td>
<td>Discuss unexpected results and try and explain results not in line with the hypothesis. Be honest. These could stimulate further research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same or similar information is provided in introduction and discussion sections</td>
<td>Introduction and Discussion sections should complement each other (Table 2). It is necessary that arguments begun in Introduction are followed through in the discussion section, but repetition of ideas and arguments should be avoided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long, wordy arguments that meander</td>
<td>Use focused arguments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using discussion section to provide historical details or irrelevant information. Comparing study findings all the studies done on the subject.</td>
<td>Compare study findings with those from recent, relevant high-quality studies in order to hold the readers’ attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not listing study limitations</td>
<td>Not a good idea. Reviewers will point to them out, anyway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions not supported by the data or over-inflating the importance or ‘generalizability’ of the study findings</td>
<td>Avoid drawing conclusions that are not backed by data. Always provide a balanced and honest viewpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speculating too much or too little</td>
<td>Discussion section should be used for predicting how results would impact practice, health policy and future research. Such predictions help readers understand the value of the research study. But exaggerations and excessive speculation should be avoided as it would bring discredit.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Writing the Discussion Section: Describing the Significance of the Study Findings

Sandeep B Bavdekar
What points should be paid attention about writing rules, and grammar?

• Discussion section should be written with a simple language, as if we are talking with our colleague

• Each sentence should indicate a single point, and it should not exceed 25-30 words

• The priorly mentioned information which linked the previous sentence should be placed at the beginning of the sentence, while the new information should be located at the end of the sentence

• Active voice rather than passive voice should be used
Useful tips!

• Read carefully the “Author Guidelines” of the journal

Discussion

• Approximately eight to ten paragraphs.
• First paragraph should be an overarching statement about the study.
• The results may be interpreted.
• Each paragraph consists of approximately four to six sentences, the first highlighting a point of interest from the study. The remaining sentences support the first sentence or a comparison of results from similar studies, highlighting similarities or differences.
• The second last paragraph can be one that recommends further research, or changes to current practice.
• The last paragraph should be the study limitations.

https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/about/submissions#authorGuidelines
Useful tips!

• Read the discussion section of the paper published within the journal as an example

Discussion

The objectives of this study were to measure the PI of university student paramedics and to determine potential predictor variables for student PI. It also presented an opportunity to report on the demographics and background of these participants who represent a cohort of paramedic students at a single university campus. Overall, our students reported high levels of PI across all years and our study results gave us valuable insight we can use to strengthen aspects of PI within our paramedic curriculum.
Useful tips!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Include</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Begin with major findings</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Critically explain what these findings mean</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Critically relate with literature for similar or different findings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Relevance of the findings - clinical or scientific/research implication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Limitations of the study - what and why? how this could be addressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Way forward based on findings - not unanswered by your study, further research needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Take-Home Message – at the end of discussion or separately in conclusion section</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do not include</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Over representation of the results - careful not go beyond what is supported by the data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Unwarranted Speculation - not supported by findings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Inflating the Importance of the Findings - unwarranted importance, exercise ‘humility’!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Tangential issues - remain focused on hypothesis, objectives and study results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The “Bully Pulpit” - Do not use discussion to attack others or preach the reader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Tangential issues - remain focused on hypothesis, objectives and results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Conclusions Not Supported by Data- avoid the temptation</td>
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Note: modified from³

Thank you!