

普通高等院校规划教材

英语学术论文

写作教程

ENGLISH
RESEARCH PAPER
WRITING

主编 李向武



西南交通大学出版社

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普通高等院校规划教材

English Research Paper Writing

英语学术论文写作教程

主 编 李向武
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西南交通大学出版社

· 成 都 ·

内容简介:《英语学术论文写作教程》按照全国《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》的基本精神进行编写,同时结合普通本科院校英语专业学生的英语写作基础,旨在对学生进行英语学术论文写作专门和系统的训练。本教材全方位分析和阐述了英语学术论文写作的理论知识和写作技巧,从论文选题、确立主题、资料搜集与整理、草拟提纲、论文初稿撰写、论文修改、论文定稿、论文格式、注释的使用、文献援引、地道的英语用语表达等方面详尽讲解了英语学术论文写作的各个具体环节,并援引了新近在国内外学术刊物上发表的论文作为实例,供学习者分析和掌握各章节的理论知识。

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前 言

“英语学术论文写作”是英语专业本科学生的一门专业基础课程，也是英语专业核心课程，是英语本科写作课程中高级阶段的写作内容。本教材适用于英语专业本科高年级的写作课程，是为培养学生在高级阶段的写作能力，同时进一步训练学生掌握英语毕业论文写作的基本要求，为学生毕业论文的写作做准备而编写的教材。本教材按照全国《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》的基本精神进行编写，同时结合普通本科院校英语专业学生的基础，对学生进行英语学术论文写作专门和系统的训练，为学生将来的工作与科研打下良好的基础。

一、本教材的主要特色

1. 针对性

本教材是在对普通高校英语专业本科生英语写作需求进行调研的基础上制订编写计划。编者针对学生英语写作的需求，力图在有限的篇幅内为学生提供最有效的英语学术论文写作信息、思路及语言训练。

2. 创新性

本教材反映了英语写作的教学实践和最新研究成果。教材融入了近几年国内外一些新的英语写作教学研究成果，把英语学术论文写作的新理论和新方法也逐渐渗透到写作的教学实践环节，适合新时期英语专业高级阶段写作教学的需要。

3. 实用性

目前国内图书市场上常见的英语写作教材以介绍英语文体为主，内容往往浅显有余而深度不足，不能满足英语专业本科生高级阶段的写作需求；同时，写作教材通常以专题介绍和范例分析为主，缺乏供学生思考和讨论的练习，因而学生缺乏通过实践提高写作技能的训练。本教材不仅提供英语学术论文的一般性文体写作理论知识和写作技巧，而且涵盖本科毕业论文写作知识并提供毕业论文写作能力的实际训练。此外，本教材总结并提供正确的英语学术论文写作的常用表达训练及测试，把理论与实践结合起来，具有明显的实用性。

4. 适应性

一方面，本教材融入了一些新的英语专业写作教学研究成果，旨在拓

展学生的专业基础理论知识和培养学生的英语学术论文写作能力,使写作教材更适合目前英语专业高级阶段的教学需求;另一方面,本教材把英语学术论文写作与英语专业毕业论文写作结合在一起,更加适合英语专业学生的实际需要。

二、本教材的编写原则及要求

1. 结合专业特色, 优化知识结构

在教学实践中,整合教学内容,使本教材既可以作为英语专业方向学生的专业基础课程应用教材,也可以作为其他专业学生掌握英语写作基础知识的参考教材。教材内容精练,符合教学特点,文字简明,深入浅出。为适应教学改革需要,教材针对部分教学内容进行整合,尤其适合教学内容的选择,便于教师取舍。

2. 内容与时俱进, 体现学术价值

本教材努力做到把英语学术论文写作领域的最新研究成果引入教学,不仅吸收了国内相关专家、学者的研究成果,也吸收了国外学者的主要学术成果。

3. 理论联系实际

本教材注重培养学生的实际运用能力,训练学生把英语论文写作的基础知识和技能应用于英语毕业论文写作,把理论应用于实践。

4. 内容完整, 体例统一

本教材以英语专业教学大纲为依据,在内容上力求做到精、准、全,达到深入浅出,举一反三的目的;在编写体例上力图做到完整统一,每一章的内容均按照“理论阐述→范例分析→专项练习”的范式做具体安排,力求理论与实践紧密结合。

本书第一、二、三、四、五部分由李向武执笔完成,第六、七部分由陈平负责编写。本书在编写过程中参考了许多专家、学者的文献,并承蒙有关方面的关怀和支持,在此谨致真诚的谢意。经雷虹晔、王俞敏两位同学同意,本书第七部分引用了他们的本科生毕业论文,供读者参考。在此向雷虹晔、王俞敏同学致以衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限,书中内容难免有遗漏或不当之处,敬请广大同行及读者提出宝贵意见。

编者

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PART I

AN OVERVIEW OF A RESEARCH PAPER

Chapter 1

Ideas about Research Papers

1.1 Definition

A research paper (or a thesis) is usually a formal, fairly long and well-documented composition that explores, discusses or analyzes a certain factual or theoretical issue. In other words, a research paper can be understood as follows. Firstly, a research paper usually deals with an important issue; secondly, the issue can be factual or theoretical; thirdly, it is usually fairly long and well-documented.

The research paper, as a compulsory part of the undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs, is normally completed by students after they have completed their course work. Thus, it is important to get a clear idea and start thinking of the possible topics as soon as possible.

1.2 What a Research Paper Is

A research paper is intended to enable researchers to conduct and report a small-scale research project, for example, to replicate or vary another piece of empirical research, to evaluate a program of curricular or organizational innovation in schools, to review and re-analyze a theoretical theme presented in the coursework already completed, to examine critically the ideas of a theorist or a group of theorists, or to pursue historical or philosophical research in order to develop a deep understanding of an issue of particular relevance to their study.

The research paper is also such a piece of writing that reports and presents a critical commentary on information collected on a topic of general interest in

a field of study. Since a research paper involves researchers' ability to gather information, examine it critically, think creatively, organize effectively, and write convincingly, it is a project that allows them to demonstrate a great many skills that are basic to both academic and professional work in teaching. Research also enables researcher to find out more about a topic in which they have become interested during the course of the program, or an issue that may be of practical importance in the context of their work.

1.3 What a Research Paper Is Not

A research paper is not a rearrangement or summary of information from different sources, not a book or report that could be included in a general encyclopedia, not a matter of cutting and pasting together from different resources, and not a result of one quick WebFeat, Web of Science or Google Scholar search. The ideas of others, repeated uncritically, do not make a research paper; nor do sets of quotations, no matter how skillfully put together. Mere reporting of empirical data collected, no matter how extensive, can not make a research paper. Data have to be organized and analyzed against theoretical views already available to see whether they cohere with current theories or whether those theories need to be revised.

Nor does a set of unsubstantiated personal opinions constitute a research paper. Opinions should be limited to, and follow from, the information collected. In sum, the information presented should be analyzed critically, synthesized with theoretical material available, and woven into a coherent argument which can be defended against possible criticisms.

The writer of a paper can not write it from his own experience or show his/her personality as it should communicate logically and objectively and appeal to the intellect rather than the emotions.

1.4 Significance of Research Paper Writing

- The writer of a research paper may learn how to use libraries, how to read books critically and efficiently, and how to use books wisely and correctly.

- The writer of a research paper may familiarize himself or herself with

the knowledge and mechanics necessary for writing a research paper.

- The writer of a research paper may combine the course work of Thesis Writing with the actual preparation of the BA paper writing.

- The writer of a research paper may also gain some experience in writing long papers or reports, which most probably will be part of the writer's future work.

1.5 Characteristics of a Research Paper

A scholarly and academic research paper usually possesses the following characteristics.

1) Focusing on a narrow topic

When you design your research, you should avoid subjects that would lead you to compile miscellaneous information. Many research papers are unsuccessful because they cover too much ground. They are too broad in scope, too shallow in treatment. Restrict your general subject area until you arrive at something that you can explore in detail. Try to focus on a narrow topic.

2) Relying on multi-sources

By definition, a research paper is more than a condensation of easily accessible material. Avoid subjects that would tempt you to summarize pre-assembled information from one main source. Avoid subjects that are conclusively and satisfactorily treated in a textbook or in an encyclopedia. Whatever point you make in your research should require careful shifting and comparing of evidence from different and possibly conflicting sources.

3) Stating in an objective tone

In an academic writing, your tone and attitude towards your subject should be serious, but not ironic or flippant. Humorous, casual or conversational approaches are usually inappropriate for a research paper. A research paper should be formal in style. The conclusion elaborated in a paper should stay close to the evidence actually presented. You should not make your own personality prominent in a research paper. Avoid subjects whose discussion might bring into playing a large measure of partisan allegiance, personal preference or individual taste. Avoid first-person pronouns such as *I think, I know, I believe, in my mind*, etc., because such pronouns usually imply uncertainty.

4) Avoiding plagiarism

Though you are encouraged to use others' words or ideas in your research paper, you are not permitted to take them as your own. You may quote, paraphrase, translate or summarize others' ideas, but you need to tell clearly in your paper where you take them.

1.6 Kinds of Research Papers

There are two kinds of research papers in academic studies: the report paper and the thesis paper. The former can be further divided into the factual report paper and the laboratory report paper.

A factual report paper summarizes and reports a writer's findings on a particular subject. The writer neither judges nor evaluates the findings, but merely catalogues them in a sensible sequence. For instance, a paper that lists the opinions of scholars about debate over the validity of Chinese medicine is a factual report paper. Likewise, a paper that chronologically narrates the development of the computer technology is also a factual report paper.

A laboratory report paper presents the procedures of an experiment or an investigation and reports the results of them. The writer can both give a judgment about the findings in the experiment or in the investigation and make an evaluation of the results. For example, a paper on a questionnaire investigation into the interest of the high school students in learning English would be a laboratory report paper. Similarly, a paper that gives an account of an experiment on teaching approaches to spoken English in groups in a high school would be a laboratory report paper, too.

A thesis paper, unlike a report paper, takes a definite stand on an issue. A thesis is a convention or a point of view that a writer is willing to argue against or defend. A paper that argued for or against the validity of Chinese medicine is therefore a thesis paper. So is a paper that attempts to prove that cognitive linguistics promotes the development of artificial intelligence.

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) What is a research paper?

- 2) What is not a research paper?
- 3) What are the significant aspects of research paper writing?
2. Read the following research topics and decide whether it is a factual report paper, a laboratory report paper or a thesis paper.
 - 1) Possible Solution to AIDS Issues in Workplace
 - 2) The Impact of Automation on American Culture and Lifestyles
 - 3) Should Newspaper Reporters Be Required to Reveal Their Sources?
 - 4) On the Necessity of Sex Education among Teenagers
 - 5) The Development of Child Day Care Centers in China
 - 6) How to Compensate for Blood Donations
 - 7) Process of Genetic Engineering
 - 8) Children's Toys and Their Emotional Problems
 - 9) Should Foreign Car Imports Be Restricted?
 - 10) Changes of the Divorce Laws

Chapter 2 Paper Supervision

Depending on the nature of the research project, one advisor or two co-advisors will be appointed by the Department Program Committee. In certain cases, arrangements may be made for some external supervision to be obtained. Students should refer to the “Research and Supervision Interests of Staff” which may be provided by the department as a guide to both the possibilities for research topics and possible advisors.

The appropriate Program Committee is responsible for the appointment of an advisor from the staff of the department. Note that this will usually be simply confirmation of an advisor/advisee relationship initiated by the student.

2.1 The Role of the Advisor

The Program Committee always requires that advisors attend to their responsibilities in a professional manner which will lead to a rewarding research experience for the student. The research paper is the student’s work. The advisor’s task is to assist the student to achieve the best possible standards of work. It is not the task of the advisor to direct the student in this work. In particular, the Committee usually requires as follows.

- The advisor has research experience and interests which are appropriate for the student’s topic.
- The advisor should spend sufficient time and access adequate resources in order to be able to provide suitable guidance throughout the whole course of the student’s work.
- The advisor should be thoroughly familiar with the relevant regulations and guidelines and regularly draw the attention of the student to pertinent aspects of these matters.
- The advisor must ensure that the student is engaged on a promising topic

which might fairly be expected to produce sufficient results in the minimum time specified for the research work.

- The advisor must check the student's research paper before it is submitted in order to ensure that it conforms to all relevant regulations and guidelines.

2.2 Advisor-Student Contact

The requirements described above should be best satisfied by frequent interaction between the advisor and the student. This interaction should be guided by the advisor's attendance to the following matters:

- the approval of the student's research proposal before the research work commences;
- the arrangement of regular contact with the student in order to critically and constructively monitor the progress of the work;
- the provision of critical reaction to drafts of the research paper before it is submitted for examination;
- the student's adherence to the department's recommendations concerning style and presentation.

2.3 The Student's Role

The student undertaking the preparation of research papers will be independent and autonomous learner who is able to take responsibility for the production of a substantial and relatively extended project. In particular, the student is expected to be responsible for the following matters:

- the conceptualization of a problem for study;
- the development of a feasible approach to conducting the study;
- the management of time and resources in conducting the study;
- the preparation of a research proposal which is of appropriate standard with regard to academic style, presentation, etc.;
- the maintenance of regular contact with the advisor in order to report on progress and to reflect on the supervisor's suggestions and critical reactions;
- attention to correct English usage in all drafts submitted for advisors and examiners.