

**Research Report Guidelines****1. Introduction & Background of the Study**

Give a brief introduction about the topic of your study and explain the background. Here you should also provide a short description of the novel/characters where applicable. Give your rationale (reason) for conducting this study.

**a. Aim of the Study**

Clearly state what your research focus is. Link this with your introduction and the background of the study.

**b. Significance of the Study**

Talk about why your study is important and how it will contribute to the field of language and literature studies.

**c. Main Arguments**

Clearly state your thesis statement and list the arguments you will be presenting. Explain the significance of your themes and summarise the main relevant points.

**2. Literature Review**

Provide information about the previous studies in this field. Include as many studies as you can and explain their relevance to your topic. This section will give an overview of what has already been said or done in your specific area of study; what the prevailing theories, opinions and hypotheses are; and what methods or research sources may be appropriate. In general, you are showing how your work fits into the broader area of language and literary studies. The Literature Review is also a critical review of other works. Being critical will enable you to indicate any gaps, weaknesses or areas requiring extension in your specific topic area. By doing this, you are justifying the need for your research. It is important to note that in your Literature Review you must only include information which is relevant to your arguments/research questions.

**a. Definition of Key Terms**

Define the terms that your study focuses on. Use both dictionary and operational definitions.

**3. Methodology**

Provide a detailed justification of your chosen frameworks and how they relate to your arguments. It is important that your methodology shows an appreciation of the **historical and cultural contexts** of the theoretical frameworks you use. Review the literature in your field and refine your initial ideas about the methodology you want to use. Your literature review and methodology will develop in tandem with each other. Explain clearly the methodology you are going to use to carry out the analysis you intend to do. This will depend on the chosen theoretical framework as well as your thesis statement and main arguments. Provide information about how you will select extracts (if applicable) for analysis and/or how the theory will be used for analysis of the chosen parts/characters/plot and so on.

**4. Results of the Analysis**

Draw out the implications of your work and argue the significance of your themes. In this section you analyse your themes to work out what they really mean and how they support (or do not support) your hypotheses. In this way, the paper links back to the Introduction and reconsiders your aims and objectives. This section should contain arguments of the main points of your themes and the results of your analysis of the selected extracts/characters/sections and so on. You should also attempt to determine the significance of your themes and compare them with the themes of previous researchers. Any surprising or unexpected findings need to be explained. You could also consider any limitations of your study too.

**5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

Summarise your main arguments and make suggestions for further research. Remember that these should be based on your arguments.