

# DEVELOPING THE TITLE FOR YOUR THESIS /RESEARCH PROJECT

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# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

**Recap of important points related to the problem statement**

**What is a Thesis Research/Project Title and Why is it Important?**

**Types of Titles**

**Tips for Developing an Effective Title**

**Examples**

**Summary**

# Recap of the Problem Statement

- This “first step” in the research process includes:
  - a) Defining the problem (What do you we want to solve?; Having the **so what effect**)
  - b) Developing research objectives
    - a) Developing hypotheses or questions

# Recap of the Problem Statement

A well-defined study begins with a clearly defined problem.

*“The formulation of a problem is often more essential than its solution” - Albert Einstein*

# Recap of the Problem Statement

- A research problem is:
  - a statement about an area of concern.
  - a condition to be improved upon.
  - a difficulty to be eliminated.
  - or a troubling question that exists in scholarly literature, in theory, or in practice that points to the need for meaningful understanding and deliberate investigation.

# Key Characteristics of Problem Statement

A good research problem should at a minimum:

1. Address a gap in knowledge;
2. Be significant enough to contribute to the existing body of research;
3. Be one that will lead to more research;
4. Be interesting to the researcher and suit his/her skills, time and resources;
5. Render itself to be investigated via collection of data; and
6. Be ethical.

# The Role of the Problem Statement

- Provides context for the research study
- Typically generates questions which the research hopes to answer.

Note: In order to move forward with a research project, **you will generally spend some time considering the problem.**

# Importance of the Research Problem

- It establishes the importance of the topic.
- It creates reader interest.
- Establishes the existence of a unique problem.
- Relates the problem to its general antecedents.
- Suggests the benefits to be derived from the study.
- Justifies the utility, significance, or interest inherent in the pursuit of the problem.



# What makes a Good Research Problem Statement?

- Compelling topic ("What is the problem"? And "why is this problem worth my attention"?)
- Multiple perspectives
- Researchable (something to be solved or framed as a question that must be answered)
- Provides context for why your research is necessary.

# ROC Test

- *Researchable* - the problem can be answered by collecting and analyzing data. (Doable)
- *Original*- Has not been done previously and creates new knowledge or can be a repetitive study with new population/passage of time.
- *Contributory*-Make a difference in profession or in society.



# Developing your Thesis/Research Project Title



# What is a Thesis Research/Project Title and Why is it Important?

- The title is the part of a paper that is read the most, and it is usually read first, and is the most important element that defines the research study.

*Title is the gateway to the contents of a scientific article. It is usually the first part of a manuscript that the editors and reviewers read (Bavdekar, 2016)*

- The title gives a name to the research and it is also a means to identify the contribution of the researcher.
- The initial aim of a title is to capture the reader's attention and to highlight the research problem under investigation. It gives a precise summary of the research content.
- Search engines (e.g., Google) and databases (e.g., PubMed or Scopus) use key words to pull up search results, so if your title is missing relevant key words, your article won't appear in the search results.

# What is a Thesis Research/Project Title and Why is it Important?

- An effective title is key to getting your article noticed and read, which is the first step toward making sure your work has an impact.
- The working title can help anchor the focus of the study in much the same way the research problem does.
- A bad title will 'hurt' a good paper.



# Difference between Research Topic and Research Title

## Topic:

- Is a boarder research area.
- Does not portray what your study intends to do.
- Just conveys a message on your area of interest.

## Title:

- Summarises main idea/ideas of your research.
- Provides information of the purpose of your research.
- Includes key variables in your research.

# Types of Titles

- Titles can be descriptive, declarative, or interrogative.

Types of Titles	Features
<b>Descriptive</b>	Gives complete information about the contents of the article, has several keywords (thus increasing the visibility of the article in search engines).
<b>Declarative title</b>	States the main finding of the study in the title itself; it reduces the curiosity of the reader, may point toward a bias on the part of the author, and hence is best avoided.
<b>Interrogative title</b>	Has query or the research question in the title and can sensationalize the topic

**Descriptive titles are preferred to declarative or interrogative titles.**

Source: Tullu, M. S. 2019. Writing the title and abstract for a research paper: Being concise, precise, and meticulous is the key. *Saudi journal of anaesthesia*, 13(Suppl 1), S12–S17. [https://doi.org/10.4103/sja.SJA\\_685\\_18](https://doi.org/10.4103/sja.SJA_685_18)

# Types of Titles

- From the construct point of view, titles can be classified as nominal-, compound- and full sentence- titles

Types of Titles	Features
<b>Nominal</b>	Captures only the main theme of the study. For example, <i>“Off-label drug use in neonatal intensive care unit”</i> .
<b>Compound</b>	Has subtitles to provide additional relevant information. Example: <i>Writing the title and abstract for a research paper: Being concise, precise, and meticulous is the key</i> <b>The subtitles are primarily used to present additional relevant information.</b>
<b>Full-sentence title</b>	Is longer and indicates an added degree of certainty of the results

## Sources:

.Bavdekar, S. 2016. Formulating the Right Title for a Research Article. The Journal of the Association of Physicians of India. 64

Tullu M. S. 2019. Writing the title and abstract for a research paper: Being concise, precise, and meticulous is the key. *Saudi journal of anaesthesia*, 13(Suppl 1), S12–S17. [https://doi.org/10.4103/sja.SJA\\_685\\_18](https://doi.org/10.4103/sja.SJA_685_18)



# Tips for Developing an Effective Title

- Avoid language, such as, "A Study to Investigate the...," or "An Examination of the...." These phrases are obvious and generally superfluous.
- A title which is too short often uses words which are too broad and, thus, does not tell the reader what is being studied, for example, A Study of Guyanese Politics.
- A good title should provide information about the focus and/or scope of your research study and should relate to your research topic.
- Rarely use abbreviations or acronyms unless they are commonly known.
- Be concise, precise, and meticulous.
- Do not mislead your readers. **Pay keen attention to the use of words.**

# Tips for Developing an Effective Title

## An effective title should:

- predict the content of the research paper.
- contain important keywords that will make it easier to be located during a keyword search (use critical keywords in the title to increase the discoverability of your thesis)
- be concise. Avoid unnecessary words and jargon.
- reflect the tone of writing. **No amusing or humorous titles should be allowed. For example, *All this effort to design software metrics? Sure!***
- be interesting to the reader. It should arouse the interest and curiosity of the reader .
- indicate accurately the subject and scope of the study.
- exclude "study of," "analysis of" or similar constructions.
- use correct grammar and capitalization.
- not have a period at the end.
- not exceed 15 words

# Steps

Step 1: Ask : What the paper is about? Who or what was studied? What techniques or research designs were used? What were the results?

Step 2: Use your answers to list key words.

Step 3: Create a sentence that includes the key words you listed.

Step 4: Delete all unnecessary/ repetitive words and link the remaining.

Step 5: Delete non-essential information and reword the title.

# An Example

- *Does Vaccinating Children and Adolescents with Inactivated Influenza Virus Inhibit the Spread of Influenza in Unimmunized Residents of Rural Communities?* (Too wordy)
- *Influenza Vaccination of Children: A Randomized Trial* (Too vague)
- *Effect of Child Influenza Vaccination on Infection Rates in Rural Communities: A Randomized Trial* (Better) (WHERE?)

Source: <https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/journal-author/the-importance-of-titles/1410>

# Examples of Titles (Good or Bad)

Investigation of the occurrence of entomopathogenic fungi in soils and on insects from Corentyne Berbice, Guyana South America.

Males Underperformance in Mathematics at the National Grade Six Assessment

An Examination of Cervical Cancer Screening Attitudes, Health Beliefs and Behaviours among Female Students of the University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus using the Health Belief Model

Evaluation of Coconut Biochar as a Soil Amendment for Enhanced Productivity of Sweet Peppers (*Capisasm annuum* L,) in Joanna, Black Bush Polder, Corentyne, Berbice, Guyana

Correlation between Principals' Leadership Styles and School Culture in Two Secondary Schools in Region 9

Teachers' perceptions of the influence of head-teachers' gender on leadership practices at Secondary Schools

Correlation between head-teachers' leadership style and teachers' motivation within Secondary Schools in the Upper Corentyne

An Investigation of the Endoparasitic Diversity of *Serrasalmus rhombus* in the Middle Mazaruni River, Guyana

There is a Prevalence of Depression in Type 1 Diabetic Adolescents and Young Adults in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 in Guyana

# Examples of Titles (Good or Bad)

Implementation Fidelity of the CSEC Chemistry Syllabus for the 10th Grade
Family Support and Adherence to Diabetes Self-Management in Adult Type 2 Diabetes Patients at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation
Vaginal Bleeding in Pregnant Women <b>at GPHC, A &amp; E</b> During the Period 2015-2016: Causes and Immediate Outcome
Combined effect of vermicompost and vermiwash produced from Madar ( <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> ), Lemongrass ( <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> ) Moringa ( <i>Moringa oleifera</i> ) and paddy Straw on the growth of Celery ( <i>Apium graveoleus</i> )
Study on Pollen – Pistil Interaction and Seed Development in Okra ( <i>Abelmoschus Esculentus</i> ) under Influence of Temperature Variation
Improvement of Road Intersections in Georgetown, Guyana: Enhancing Urban Mobility and Road Safety
Comparative analysis of liquid fish silage fertilizer versus urea on the plant vegetative and yield performance of Pak-Choi ( <i>Brassica rapa subsp, chinensis</i> )
Diversity of Endophytic Fungi Colonising the Leaves and Stems of Three Mangrove Species and an Associate Species in Guyana.
<b>The Use of <i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i> (Duckweed) and <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> (waste Hyacinth) to Phytoremeoliate Wastewater in Guyana.</b>
Macrofungal Diversity in Selected Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems in Guyana
Pre-Service Teachers' Perception of Teaching Literacy within the Content Area.
Utilization of plantain waste for production of compost and vermicompost and effect on plant growth parameters of Pak Choi ( <i>Brassica rapa</i> )
An Investigation into the Competency Proficiency Level and Induction of New Primary School <b>HeadTeahers.</b>
An Assessment of the Ameliorating Effects of Different Rates of Biochar on Twiuid Sand and the Growth and Production of <i>Capsicum Chinense</i> JACQ.
An Investigation of Fish Mercury Concentrations in the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area (KMPA), Guyana: A Risk Assessment of Local Exposure to Species from the Kwitaro and Rupununi Rivers, Region #9.



# Summary

- ✓ A well-defined study begins with a clearly defined problem.
- ✓ The title is the part of a paper, **and** is the most important element that defines the research study.
- ✓ Title is the gateway to the contents of a scientific article.
- ✓ A bad title will 'hurt' a good paper.
- ✓ Titles can be descriptive, declarative, or interrogative. They can also be titles can be classified as nominal-, compound- and full sentence-titles

# Bibliography

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2. Hairston, M., & Keene, M. 2003. *Successful writing*. 5th ed. New York: Norton.
3. Hartley, J. 2018. "To Attract or to Inform: What are Titles for?" *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication* (2005): 203-213; Jaakkola, Maarit. "Journalistic Writing and Style." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*. Jon F. Nussbaum, editor. New York: Oxford University Press. <https://oxfordre.com/communication>.
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5. University of Southern California. 2017. *Organizing your social sciences research paper: choosing a title*. [Online] Available at: <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/title>

## Websites

- <http://classroom.synonym.com/choose-title-research-paper-4332.html>
- <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/title>
- <https://academicmedicineblog.org/why-titles-are-important/>
- <https://library.sacredheart.edu/c.php?g=29803&p=185911>



# Questions?

