

ACADEMIC ENGLISH SUPPORT DESK NEWSLETTER

Osaka University - Multilingual Expert Program



COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN WRITING RESEARCH PAPERS

When writing a research paper, it's important to avoid common mistakes that can detract from the quality of your work. Here are some key errors to watch out for:

- 1. Lack of focus:** Make sure your research paper has a clear focus and thesis statement. Avoid wandering off topic or including irrelevant information. For example, if you are writing a paper about climate change, don't spend too much time discussing the history of the industrial revolution.
- 2. Poor organization:** A well-organized research paper is essential for effective communication. Use clear headings and subheadings to guide the reader, and make sure your ideas flow logically. For instance, if you are writing a literature review, group the sources you cite by theme or methodology rather than listing them in alphabetical order.
- 3. Weak sources:** Ensure that the sources you use are reliable and authoritative. Avoid relying solely on internet sources or outdated information. For instance, if you are writing a paper about genetic engineering, don't use a source from a blog without verifying its credibility.
- 4. Inadequate proofreading:** Finally, take the time to carefully proofread and edit your paper. Typos, grammatical errors, and other mistakes can undermine your credibility as a researcher. For example, double-check that you have spelled key terms correctly and used correct grammar, such as subject-verb agreement.

Need help improving your research paper writing skills? Contact the Academic English Support Desk for assistance today.



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