

Language for rationale and main aims

Identifying lack of research

There is a **general/complete/notable lack of** research on

There is a **relative/general/surprising paucity of** research

No/limited/insufficient data exists on

Few/no/only two studies have been conducted

Little/insufficient/scant attention has been **paid to**

... **has not been** tested/examined/studied

Although/even though/while some research has..., **no** studies have

There are still few/no studies focusing on/conducted in

This topic has **received little/limited/scant attention** in literature/from researchers

Research concerning ... **is still/somewhat/currently lacking.**

There has been **little/insufficient analysis of**

Identifying a lack of understanding

... is **poorly** understood

... is **not yet fully/well** understood

Mechanism/function/role **remains unclear/unknown/uncertain**

relatively/very/comparatively little is known about

There is a **strong/clear need to** understand/identify

The **evidence** for ... is **insufficient/lacking/inconclusive**

More/further research is needed (in order) to determine/ascertain

There is still **some/considerable/much uncertainty** regarding/with regards to/concerning

The evidence/data **remains inconclusive.**

Presenting problems with previous studies:

Other/previous studies **have failed to** show/find/demonstrate

Results/data/findings are **inconclusive/not consistent**

The **generalisability** of these findings/studies is **problematic**

Other/previous studies **have been limited/restricted to**

One/serious/common problem with these studies is

... is a **major/further/serious limitation** of such research.

The **lack of a control group** might have affected the results.

However, Li's study **was only based on** a limited/very small sample
Yoong's **conclusions are questionable/problematic** because

Linking research gap with the aim

Bearing this in mind, the aim of this study is to...

Taking this into account, it seems important to focus on...

As a result/Consequently, this study aims to

Therefore/Hence/Thus, it is important to focus on

Investigating this issue further/in more detail/qualitatively is important

There is thus/hence/therefore **a clear need to** further investigate

This **means/suggests/indicates that** studying

Given that the effects of the treatment are still not clear, this paper seeks to...

Presenting the aim of your research

Bearing this in mind, **the aim of this study is to...**

As a result/Consequently, **this study aims to...**

This paper attempts to show that

The purpose of this paper is to investigate

...aims to **investigate the effects/role/cause of...**

The aim is to **analyse the impact/effectiveness of...**

This study **provides an overview of/insight into...**

We attempt to **determine the effectiveness/cause of/extent to which...**

...to **identify the problems/factors/individuals...**

In this paper we **examine the role of/impact of/relationship between**

Presenting the aim of your research as a hypothesis

It is hypothesised here that...

...**is hypothesised/expected to be...**

The hypothesis is that...

We hypothesise that...