The where, the why, the who and the how

These 4 questions are the essence of your entire study. Follow the instructions below.

**Instructions**

1. **The where of your study:** decide if you need to include this section by answering the questions below:
   1. Was your study conducted at a specific location outside of a lab or a computer?
   2. Is the context where your study was conducted important to understand your research and its results?
   3. Do other researchers in your field typically present the research context?

If the answer to at least two of the above is YES, then you will need to give background information on your study context.

1. If you have to include it, follow the instructions below. If not, skip to step 4.
   1. Look back at your research questions. What information about where your study was conducted is necessary for the reader to contextualise your aims and results?
   2. Tick the elements below which you think are necessary.
   3. Take notes on the necessary elements in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Element** | **Include (Y/N)** | **My notes** |
| Historical developments |  |  |
| Flora |  |  |
| Fauna |  |  |
| Languages spoken |  |  |
| Culture, traditions |  |  |
| Geology |  |  |
| Climate |  |  |
| Geography |  |  |
| Peoples/tribes |  |  |
| How X is typically done |  |  |
| Societal structure |  |  |
| Cultural norms |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |

1. **Structuring the where of your study:** Complete the table below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Element | Length | Organisation (see Week 3 Day 4) | My notes structured |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. **The why of your study:** we identified the research gap in Day 2 of Week 1 using Research Gap Identifier and Honing your research topic worksheets. To help you further clarify this, complete the table below. You do not have to complete all fields. Put an X where appropriate.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of justification** | **Lack of or insufficient research** | | | | **Lack of understanding** | **Problems with previous studies** |
| Research gap | Sample | Geography | Methodology | Topic |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |
| Personal (if appropriate) | What justification for your study does your personal experience provide? | | | | | |

1. **Structuring the rationale of your study:** spend one paragraph on each type of research gap. Write the main topics of the paragraphs below:
   1. Paragraph 1 main topic:
   2. Paragraph 2 main topic:
   3. Paragraph 3 main topic:
   4. Paragraph 4 main topic:
2. **The who/what of your study:** depending on what it is that you actually studied, you might need to include different elements. Complete the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Element** | **Include (Y/N)** | **My notes** |
| Number of the studied sample |  |  |
| Gender |  |  |
| Age |  |  |
| Education |  |  |
| Profession |  |  |
| Height and weight |  |  |
| Health |  |  |
| Physical properties (e.g. density) |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |

1. **The who/what of your study:** you also need to present how you obtained the studied sample, what the criteria for selection were, or how the material you studied was created.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What/who you studied** | **How you obtained it** | **Why this was appropriate** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. **The how of your study:** you now need to present the tools/instruments used to obtain the data and the procedures/steps you followed.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Instrument** | **What it is** | **Why it’s appropriate** | **What you did** |
| Section 1 = instrument 1 + procedures |  |  |  |  |
| Section 2 = instrument 2 + procedures |  |  |  |  |