Writing your Introduction

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| **What to do** | **Your dot points** |
| 1 Introduce the topic you have researched and provide a **general overview** of its meaning and significance. Suggest why a greater understanding of this topic is required, necessary or beneficial. * For example, understanding how people differ in their attitudes to self (i.e. in self-esteem) might make it possible to provide support for isolated or depressed people. Exploring the reasons for pro-social behaviour at school might benefit schools and students alike.

2 Provide a **theoretical discussion**. This involves providing definitions and examples in a clearly written, flowing piece of prose, not just a list of copied definitions. Show that you understand the **theoretical background underpinning your topic**.* For instance, you might explain the meaning of taste perception and related concepts OR give a clear account of the meaning of perceptual set OR define and give examples of prosocial behaviour OR explain the tri-component theory of attitudes and how it relates to the attitude you are studying.

3 Refer to at least **two studies** that clearly relate to your topic. You can find accounts of studies on the internet by typing “psychological studies of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” « **insert clearly formulated topic** » into your search engine. When referring to a study, give the names of researchers, the yearof the study, the details and results of the study, and how it can be linked to your study and report. Books are also a promising source of research and should not be overlooked, especially for older studies. * **Setting out:** Brooke and Field (2014) investigated the effect of training on perceptual set when interpreting a crime scene. One set of participants was a group of detectives, while the control group was made up of university students. It was found that… This indicates that… Although these findings provide insights into…, there was a potential problem with… The results of this research cast considerable light on the complex issue of…

4 Describe the benefits of your **method of research**, if this seems appropriate. For instance, if you are conducting an attitudes investigation using a Likert scale, there may be different benefits from those of a study in which you observe behaviour in order to draw conclusions about attitudes. 5 Identify your independent variable and your dependent variable. State your aim/s and hypothesis/es clearly. |  |