

# Writing your Introduction

## 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 year of 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.