

POINTS OF PREPARING SRS RESEARCH ESSAYS

Valid from 1 September 2024

1. PREAMBULUM

SRS research essays should be prepared in accordance with the relevant rules of writing a scientific paper. The aim of a research essay is to prove its author's active and competent participation in scientific research and demonstrate his/her skills. In addition, writing a research essay provides an opportunity for the author to learn and properly use the rules of scientific publication.

2. TOPIC OF RESEARCH ESSAYS AND HANDLING DATA ON WHICH THE ESSAY IS BASED

A research essay can document the author(s)' own experiments, case study, clinicopathologic work or statistical research, computerized simulation or program, review of the scientific literature, film, tool, model or preparation. A research essay should not necessarily include new scientific results in a strict sense, but it should, by all means, be the author(s)' own work. As, at different phases of his/her work, it is possible for the author to accept help, external contribution should be itemized in the appendix (see below).

The author should keep a record of the experiments serving as the basis of the research essay and should preserve the record until the end of his/her university studies. The Council of Students' Research Society (SRS) may order that the record of the experiments be inspected by appointed individuals, in the presence of the author, who should facilitate such inspection by all means.

3. SUBMITTING A RESEARCH ESSAY

A research essay has to be submitted to the Council of the SRS either in English or Hungarian and uploaded solely via the Electronic Research Essay System (tdk.lib.unideb.hu). When uploading, it is obligatory to provide the details of at least 3 proposed reviewers (preferably a PhD degree holder or a medical specialist, or at least an assistant professor or at least a research assistant) who can provide a peer review of the research essay based on their area of expertise and/or research. The proposed reviewers must not be directly associated with the research essay and at least two of them must be from an institution other than the one where the research essay was written.

After uploading, the electronic front page generated by the System should be printed, get signed by the department's head, the SRS advisor, and the supervisor(s) and submitted to the person responsible for SRS affairs at the Faculty of Medicine, Dean's Office, Registrar's Office. There is no need for submitting other printed documents. A research essay is considered 'submitted' after the 'delivery' of the front page printed from the System and bearing the necessary signatures. This is the point when the evaluation procedure begins.

Graduate students who wish to have their SRS research essay accepted as a diploma thesis should take into account the length of the evaluation process (approximately 60-90 days) when submitting their thesis. If any problem emerges, the secretary of SRS in charge with research essays will give information. Contact: fagyasmiklos@med.unideb.hu.

4. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

The running text of a research essay is **minimum 20, maximum 40 typed pages**, excluding the list of references, figures and figure legends as well as tables. The essay should be typed in a document of A/4 sheets. Choose **1.5 spacing** and **12 pt**, set the **margins at 2.5 cm** on each page. Upload the essay to the Electronic Research Essay System in pdf format.

Typing medical terms, authors should use the Latin spelling. The spelling of chemical names should be in harmony with the international nomenclature. The authors are recommended to use only few abbreviations. When uncommon abbreviations are included or mathematical formulae contain letters, the meaning of those letters should be provided. The use of SI units is preferred as much as possible.

It is recommended to organize the text as follows: front page, contents, abstract, list of abbreviations (if relevant), introduction, aims, materials and methods, results, discussion, acknowledgement, references, appendix. If necessary, the chapters on results and discussion can be merged.

Front page: It should contain the title, the author(s)' names(s), year (of studies) supplemented with the name of faculty and of the major, the name of the institute/department and the supervisor's name and position as well as the names of the head of department and of the contact person responsible for the department's SRS activities. The front page should also contain the statement 'I agree to the submission of this research essay', signed by the aforementioned head of department and contact person for SRS affairs.

Contents: should be started on a separate page.

Abstract: It should be compact and self-explanatory, on a single page, not exceeding 20-25 lines. It should inform about the aim of investigations/tests, refer to the methods and outline the major results and conclusions.

List of abbreviations: The abbreviations in the research essay should be presented in an alphabetical order.

Introduction: It should contain a brief review of the literature that serves as a basis for the topic of the research essay, still it should render the points easy to understand for the reader. In contrast with aim-oriented introductions in scientific publications, research essays allow longer/more detailed ones so a student can prove how familiar he/she is with the scientific literature. It is worth summing up the most important results in 1-2 sentences at the end of the introduction.

Aim: it should come on a separate page and give a compact outline of the goal(s) in the research essay.

Materials and methods: This chapter should contain enough details for a professional researcher to enable him/her to assess the tests and their reliability as well as the adequateness of the chosen method. The description of methods should reflect that the author is familiar with the basic methodological principles. This chapter should also describe the applied statistical methods, and contain data (number of parallel trials, size of the cohort, control studies, scatter, level of significance, i.e. the value of 'p', etc.) supporting the methods' accuracy and reliability.

Results: This chapter is to present the tables and figures integrated into the text. The photos, figures and tables should be self-explaining. They should have informative titles and be supplemented with brief legends as well as an explanation of symbols. Quantities and the names of units should be included even if they are the same when used in subsequent tables and figures.

Discussion: This is the chapter where the evaluation and comparison of results with the ones in the literature should be presented. In addition, explanation for potential differences, making conclusions and offering recommendations are also integral parts of the ‘discussion’.

References: Only publications referred to in the running text should be listed in the references, but the list should contain all of them. In the text, cited publications should be referred to consistently, preferably in Vancouver style. References should be indicated in the text by a line number in the superscript. The order of citations in the bibliography is the same as the order in which they appear in the text. All bibliographic data for journal articles are published in the following order: authors' surnames, initials of first names, title of the publication, title of the journal (abbreviated as used by the journal), year of publication, volume number, first and last page numbers. In the case of publications with more than six authors, it is possible to insert "et al." may be used.

Examples:

1. Marks MA, Chaturvedi AK, Kelsey K, Straif K, Berthiller J, Schwartz SM és mtsai.: Association of marijuana smoking with oropharyngeal and oral tongue cancers: pooled analysis from the INHANCE Consortium. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2014 Jan;23(1):160-71.

Reference to a book chapter in the research essay should be indicated in the bibliography in the same way as for article citations, by using the following method:

2. Forrest JL, Miller SA. Evidence-based decision making. In: Bowen DM, Pieren JA, editors. *Darby and Walsh dental hygiene theory and practice.* 5th ed. Maryland Heights: Elsevier; 2020. p. 25-33.

Appendix: the appendix has **two mandatory** content elements.

- (1.) The author should itemize the experiments he made by him/herself and the ones in which he/she needed help, outlining the type of help he/she received. He/she should also include the number(s) of (ethical, animal trial) licenses/permits/approvals - if any - to perform experiments/trials.
- (2.) A plagiarism statement signed by the student must be attached here. In the absence of the declaration, the research essay will not be evaluated.

Review research essays can be submitted by students who have an accepted first-author essay. A review consists of the following chapters: Front page, Contents, Abstract, Aims, Review, References and Appendix.

The format and compilation of references should be the same as listed above. In the chapter ‘Aims’, the author should explain why he/she chose a specific topic and name the most important aims of his/her work. The review should be divided into chapters and subchapters.

A **case study** is the descriptive evaluation of observations obtained when studying one or several cases at a specific clinical department. A case study can include some rare pathologies whose typical symptoms coincide with those first described by the physician it was named after (syndrome). Also, a case report can cover (a) common disease/diseases with a somewhat atypical course. The course of the disease may be edifying for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. A case study research essay should aim at reviewing the literature of the specific topic (raising and elaborating the topic), the illustrative presentation of the course of disease as well as the use of own figures to help with understanding the pathomechanism of a disease and, last but not least, the chapter of discussion should contain elements of personal relevance.