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Explanatory Remark on Differences Between a Position Paper and an Empirical Paper

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ABSTRACT

An accessible explanation of academic writing differences between a position paper and an empirical paper for graduate students' writing approach. The purpose is for graduate scholars who want to use these articles for basic knowledge and fundamental ideas. It can also be used as a textbook or reference. The paper revealed information regarding academic writing differences between position papers, empirical papers and authenticate benefits. Both position papers and empirical papers involve research and analysis but the main difference is that position papers present a specific stance or argument while empirical papers present objective data and research findings. It was concluded that a position paper and an empirical paper focus on argumentation & persuasion versus original research and create a new body of knowledge scientifically.

1. Introduction

Academic writing is a type of writing that is used in educational settings such as universities, colleges or research institutions to communicate ideas, research findings or scholarly arguments. It is a formal and structured style of writing that adheres to specific conventions and guidelines such as using objective language, citing sources and following a clear structure. Swales and Feak (2012) define academic writing as a genre that is used to communicate complex ideas and research findings to a specialized audience in a particular field. Academic writing as a recursive process of planning, drafting, revising that involves critical thinking, analysis and synthesis of information from multiple sources. It is a complex, intellectual activity that involves critical thinking, analysis and synthesis of information from multiple sources. When writing a research paper, it's important to understand the different types of papers you may be asked to write. Two common types of papers are a position paper and an empirical paper. While both types of papers are research-based, they differ in their goals, methods and content.

A position paper is a paper that presents a viewpoint on a particular topic or issue. It is based on research but the primary goal is to argue for a particular position. A position paper is a type of academic writing that presents an argument or opinion about a particular issue or topic. It is based on the author's personal beliefs and experiences and aims to persuade the reader to adopt the author's position. In contrast, an empirical paper is a paper that presents the results of a study or experiment. According to Runyon and Haber (2018), an empirical paper presents the results of a research study or experiment, description of the research methods used, results obtained and the implications of those results. The primary goal of an empirical paper is to present new data and

findings. Koz (2019) notes empirical research involves collecting and analyzing data while non-empirical research relies on existing data and literature. A position paper presents a persuasive argument based on existing research while an empirical paper presents new data and findings based on original research.

2. Structural Differences

A position paper typically follows a basic structure such as an abstract, introduction, body and conclusion while an empirical paper follows a more structured format such as an abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, results, discussion and conclusion.

Purpose: The purpose of a position paper is to persuade the reader to adopt the author's position on a particular issue or topic while an empirical paper is to report on original research or data collection and to present new knowledge or insights.

Evidence: A position paper relies on existing literature and other sources to support the author's argument while an empirical paper relies on original data and analysis to support the research question or hypothesis.

Methodology: A position paper does not involve original research or data collection and does not require a specific methodology while an empirical paper requires a specific methodology to collect and analyze data such as surveys, experiments or case studies.

Audience: The audience for a position paper is typically a general audience such as the general public, policymakers or stakeholders while the audience for an empirical paper is typically other researchers or academics who are interested in the research question or topic.

Validity: Empirical papers require rigorous methods and data analysis to ensure the validity and reliability of the results while a position paper may rely more on subjective or qualitative arguments.

Replicability: Empirical papers should provide enough detail about the research methods and data analysis to allow other researchers to replicate the study while a position paper may not be replicable in the same way.

Peer Review: Empirical papers typically undergo a peer review process, where other experts in the field evaluate the quality and rigour of the research while a position paper may not undergo the same level of scrutiny.

Generalizability: Empirical papers often aim to generalize the findings to a broader population or context while a position paper may be more focused on specific perspectives or arguments.

Timeframe: Empirical papers often require a longer time frame to conduct the research, collect data and analyze the results while a position paper may be written more quickly and without the same level of data collection or analysis.

2.1. Challenges That Researchers May Face When Conducting A Position Paper and An Empirical Paper In Academic Writing

In terms of challenges in conducting a position paper, one major challenge is ensuring that the argument is well-supported by existing research and literature. This requires a thorough review of relevant sources and a critical analysis of their strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, it can be challenging to present a persuasive argument while also acknowledging and addressing counterarguments and opposing viewpoints. It can be difficult to maintain a clear focus and avoid tangents or irrelevant information. To address this challenge, it is important to create a clear outline and structure for the paper and to ensure that each section supports the overall argument.

One of the most significant challenges in conducting an empirical paper is designing a rigorous study with appropriate methods for data collection and analysis. Researchers must ensure that the study is feasible, ethical, produces valid and reliable results. Researchers may face challenges in recruiting participants, obtaining informed consent, ensuring the quality and accuracy of the data. Analyzing data can also be a complex and challenging process: researchers must select appropriate statistical methods and ensure that the data is properly cleaned and prepared for analysis. Writing an empirical paper requires a different writing style than other forms of academic writing. Researchers must be able to present their findings in a clear, concise, and organized manner, while

also providing a detailed description of their methods and results. Conducting a thorough literature review is essential for any empirical paper. However, this can be a time-consuming and daunting task, especially if the research question is complex or there is a large body of literature on the topic. Conducting an empirical study often requires significant funding which can be challenging to obtain. Empirical research can be a lengthy process and researchers may face challenges in completing the study within a specific timeframe. This can be particularly challenging for graduate students or early-career researchers who are working on a tight schedule.

2.2. Solutions To The Challenges Faced When Conducting An Academic Writing Position Paper and Empirical Paper

To ensure that the argument is well-supported by existing research and literature, it is important to conduct a thorough review of relevant sources and critically analyze their strengths and weaknesses. It is also helpful to use a variety of sources including books, academic journals and reputable websites. To maintain a clear focus and avoid tangents or irrelevant information, it is important to create a clear outline and structure for the paper. Each section should support the overall argument and flow logically from one to the next. To address counterarguments and opposing viewpoints, it is important to acknowledge them and provide evidence to support the main argument. This can help to strengthen the argument and demonstrate that the author has considered multiple perspectives. To strike the right tone in a position paper, it is important to consider the audience and tailor the language and tone accordingly. This can help to ensure that the paper is persuasive and engaging, while also being respectful and avoiding overly aggressive or confrontational language. To increase the credibility of a position paper, it is important to use reputable sources, cite them appropriately and avoid making unsupported claims or using overly emotional language. This can help to demonstrate that the author has done their research and is presenting a well-supported argument. To complete a position paper within a specific timeframe, it is important to set realistic goals and deadlines and to manage time effectively. This can involve breaking the writing process down into smaller tasks and setting aside dedicated time each day or week to work on the paper.

By implementing these solutions, researchers can overcome the challenges of conducting an empirical paper in academic writing and produce a high-quality research paper that contributes to their field of study. To ensure the validity and reliability of the study, researchers should design a rigorous study by selecting appropriate research methods, sampling techniques and data collection tools. Researchers can consult with experienced researchers or methodologists in their field to ensure that their study design is rigorous and appropriate. Researchers should use appropriate data collection tools and techniques such as surveys, experiments, or observations, depending on the research question and study design. Researchers should also use appropriate statistical analysis techniques to analyze the data and draw meaningful conclusions. Researchers should use clear and concise language, avoid jargon or technical terms that may be unfamiliar to the reader and organize their paper effectively. Researchers should ensure that their study is conducted ethically and does not harm participants or violate their rights.

3. POTENTIAL BENEFIT FOR WRITING A POSITION PAPER

Advancing A Theoretical Or Conceptual Argument: Writing a position paper allows scholars to develop and articulate their own theoretical or conceptual perspectives on a particular issue. This can contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their field and can stimulate further research and discussion.

Influencing Policy Or Public Opinion: Position papers are often targeted at policymakers, stakeholders, or the general public, and can be used to influence policy decisions or public opinion. Scholars can use their expertise to advocate for specific positions or policies that align with their research and values.

Professional Development: Writing a position paper can help scholars develop their writing, communication and critical thinking skills. It can also provide opportunities to interact with other scholars and experts in the field which can lead to new collaborations and research projects.

Visibility and Impact: Position papers can be published in journals, magazines or other media outlets which can increase the scholar's visibility and impact. Position papers can also be shared widely on social media or other platforms, reaching a broader audience and potentially influencing public discourse.

Career Advancement: Writing position papers can enhance a scholar's reputation and increase their chances of obtaining grants, awards or promotions. It can also open up new opportunities for consulting, speaking engagements, or other professional activities.

Advancing A New Perspective Or Idea: Writing a position paper allows scholars to advance a new perspective or idea that may not have been previously considered in their field. This can lead to new lines of research and can potentially shape the direction of the field.

Advocating For Change: Position papers can be used to advocate for change in policies, practices or attitudes related to a particular issue. Scholars can use their expertise to identify problems and propose solutions that can benefit society.

Engaging With Broader Audiences: Position papers are often targeted at policymakers, stakeholders, or the general public, which can provide scholars with opportunities to engage with broader audiences beyond their academic peers. This can help to increase the impact of their research and can potentially lead to new collaborations and partnerships.

Developing Critical Thinking and Writing Skills: Writing a position paper requires scholars to develop critical thinking and writing skills, which can be transferable to other areas of their work. Scholars must be able to synthesize complex information, analyze evidence, and present arguments clearly and compellingly.

4. POTENTIAL BENEFIT FOR WRITING AN EMPIRICAL PAPER

Contribution To Knowledge: By conducting original research and publishing an empirical paper, scholars can make a valuable contribution to their field by adding new data or insights.

Career Advancement: Publishing empirical papers in reputable journals can enhance a scholar's reputation and increase their chances of obtaining grants, awards or promotions.

Critical Thinking Skills: Designing and conducting research requires a high level of critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills, which can benefit scholars in other areas of their work.

Collaboration Opportunities: Empirical research often involves collaboration with other scholars, which can lead to new partnerships, networks and opportunities for future research.

Methodological Skills: Writing an empirical paper requires scholars to develop skills in research design, data collection, statistical analysis, and interpretation of results. These skills can be transferable to other research projects and can enhance the scholar's overall research abilities.

Publication Opportunities: Empirical papers are often published in reputable journals in the scholar's field which can increase their visibility and impact. Publishing in top-tier journals can also lead to more citations and recognition from other scholars.

Funding Opportunities: Writing an empirical paper can increase the scholar's chances of obtaining research funding from external sources such as foundations, government agencies or private organizations. Funding can provide resources for future research projects and can also enhance the scholar's reputation.

Professional Development: Writing an empirical paper can help scholars develop their professional skills such as writing, communication and presentation skills. It can also provide opportunities to interact with other scholars and experts in the field which can lead to new collaborations and research projects.

Impact on Policy and Practice: Empirical research often has practical implications for policy and practice. Writing an empirical paper can influence decision-makers in government, industry, or non-profit organizations, leading to changes in policies or practices that can benefit society.

5. Conclusion

The inclusive main difference between a position paper and an empirical paper is the focus on argumentation and persuasion versus original research and data collection. It's worth noting that the benefits of writing a position paper may depend on the specific field and context while empirical

research is highly valued. Nevertheless, writing a position paper can be a valuable and rewarding experience for scholars who are interested in engaging with broader issues and audiences beyond their academic peers.

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