

# The Form of the Paper

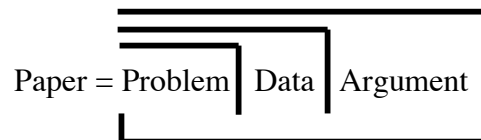
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<http://www.dirkbaecker.com/Paper.pdf>

This is about how to structure a paper written at the chair for cultural theory and analysis. It is about how to call, to cross, and to re-enter a scientific argument, i.e., to give form to a paper.



Argument is pivotal. But there is no argument if you do not contextualize your problem within data that depend on coding (aka method) and state of research (aka scientific community).

## (1) Abstract.

Others may not have the time to read your paper. What do they miss?

## (2) Key Words.

Without tags, nobody would know how to taxonomize (or folksonomize) your paper.

## (3) Statement of the problem and introduction.

Arguably this is the most difficult part of the exercise since what problem may you have if you already have the time, the imagination, and the education to think about a scientific paper? Give others a chance to join you in seeing your problem as a problem.

(4) State of research.

Others already thought and wrote about your issue. What did they find out? Which questions remain open?

(5) Thesis.

What is it you think you have to tell others? You need arguments to highlight the risk you are going to take and to control it with respect to the work done by others. The risk consists in an attempt to determine the indeterminate.

(6) Method.

There is a host of quantitative and qualitative, correlative and interpretative methods. State yours. Method tells how to code data.

(7) Data.

Data are everywhere, depending on coding. They come as numbers, stories, cases, semantics, and in other forms. Which data are yours?

(8) Findings.

So what did you find out?

(89) Discussion.

Look back at the problem stated, the research done, and the findings related, and put them into perspective regarding work done by others, practices and techniques used by others, and beliefs possibly held by others. Look at the data being different as soon as they are coded differently.

(10) Bibliography (Literature and Sources)

Books, papers, data.

Add consistent quoting rules and style-sheeting standards of your own or go to the style guide of the American Sociological Association ([http://www.asanet.org/students/Quick Style Guide.pdf](http://www.asanet.org/students/Quick%20Style%20Guide.pdf)). See for further tips also The Writing Center at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University (<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>).