

Discussion tape script

This video will show you how to apply the technique of going from narrowest to broadest in your discussion section.

In writing a discussion section, you'll need to go from the specific findings of your study and open up to your field and the broader scientific community.

The key moves that we recommend here include:

- summarising the key results
- critically analysing the key results
- relating results to the field or previous work
- relating results to gaps in the field
- speculating about how the field has changed
- making recommendations for future research

Notice how the colours, from the lightest to the darkest shade, in the image show each of the key moves. We will use these colours again to check an example later in this video. You can use this colour coding in your own work.

It is suggested that you investigate the publications in your disciplines to know more about the common features of writing the discussion in your field

Let's look at example 1

Please pause the video at any time you would like to read the example more closely

In this example, the discussion was organised according to **the significance of the findings**. To organise the discussion in this way, you must be able to answer these questions:

- What is the most significant finding?
- What is the second most significant finding?
- What is the third most significant finding? Etcetera

For each significant finding, you will apply the moves we have just shown. These moves don't have to be in this order but we usually start with the summary of the key findings, as you can see in here, followed by an explanation of the findings.

It also relates the finding to the field by comparing it with previous work.

The authors widen the discussion by highlighting how the field has changed.

They discuss the gap that can be addressed in future research, as you can see here.

This example demonstrates the organising of the discussion section according to the significance of the findings.

You can also organise the discussion according to **your research questions**. In discussing the findings of each question, you will try to incorporate as many moves as possible. Let's look at this example

For each research question, the key findings are summarised, followed by a critical analysis of the findings and comparison with previous research.

You can see that relating the findings to the gaps in the field, limitations and recommendations for future research are included in the second paragraph rather than the first one.

This shows that not every single paragraph must incorporate all six moves, but all six moves should be included in the whole discussion section. We suggest that at least 3 moves be included for each significant finding: (1) summarising the findings, (2) critically analysing the findings and (3) relating the findings to previous work.

In this video we have used examples to demonstrate how to go from narrowest to broadest when you write your discussion section. The colour coding technique will guide you and also help you to check the depth of your discussion section.

Please continue looking at other sections of the page and if you need more advice, don't hesitate to attend our workshops or book an appointment with a Language and Learning Advisor.