

Highlighting a knowledge gap in the field of study

Very little is known about X in ...

... much less is known about X

It is still not known whether ...

The nature of X remains unclear.

What is not yet clear is the impact of X on ...

The response of X to Y is not fully understood.

Causal factors leading to X remain speculative.

To date, there has been no reliable evidence that ...

The neurobiological basis of this X is poorly understood.

Little is known about X and it is not clear what factors ...

Much uncertainty still exists about the relationship between ...

To date, studies investigating X have produced equivocal results.

The evidence that X and Y are associated with Z is weak and inconclusive.

This indicates a need to understand the various perceptions of X that exist among ...

Some studies have shown the beneficial effects of ..., but others showed a deterioration in ...

To date, (however), there has been	no little	clear soild reliable definitive empirical convincing conclusive experimental	evidence that ...
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What is not yet	clear known understood	(however)	is the role of ... is the nature of ... is the importance of ... is the extent to which ... is the degree to which ... is the actual proportion of ... are the different stages of ... are the circumstances that ... is the actual relationship between ... is the relative importance of the various factors that ...
What remains	unclear unkown		is how ... is why ... is whether ... is precisely how ... is to what degree there exists ... is how different species are distributed in ... is how such policies and practices affect the ... is whether these brain regions are linked to ... is whether or not this finding is a true representation

Although While Whilst	some research has been carried out on X,	no single study exists which ... no studies have been found which ... no controlled studies have been reported there is very little scientific understanding of ... only two studies have attempted to investigate ... the mechanism by which ... has not been established. there have been few empirical investigations into ...
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Highlighting inadequacies or weaknesses of previous studies (also refer to *Being Critical*)

Previous studies of X have not dealt with ...

Researchers have not treated X in much detail.

Such expositions are unsatisfactory because they ...

Most studies in the field of X have only focused on ...

Such approaches, however, have failed to address ...

Previous published studies are limited to local surveys.

Half of the studies evaluated failed to specify whether ...

The research to date has tended to focus on X rather than Y.

Previously published studies on the effect of X are not consistent.

Smith's analysis does not take account of ..., nor does she examine ...

The existing accounts fail to resolve the contradiction between X and Y.

Most studies in X have only been carried out in a small number of areas.

However, much of the research up to now has been descriptive in nature ...

The generalisability of much published research on this issue is problematic.

Research on the subject has been mostly restricted to limited comparisons of ...

However, few writers have been able to draw on any systematic research into ...

Short-term studies such as these do not necessarily show subtle changes over time ...

Although extensive research has been carried out on X, no single study exists which ...

However, these results were based upon data from over 30 years ago and it is unclear if ...

The experimental data are rather controversial, and there is no general agreement about ...

However, all the previous X research was cross-sectional in design. Therefore, it is unclear if ...

Some evidence suggests that ..., although further work using X is required to confirm this finding.

The focus of most of these studies has been X, whereas an association between Y and Z has received less research attention.

No previous study has	controlled for ... been large enough to ... completely eliminated ... distinguished between ... provided information on ... addressed the question of ... assessed the occurrence of ... used a dynamic measure of ... given sufficient consideration to ... employed time-series techniques for ... utilised verbal reports to examine the problem of ... used a method for analysing multiple factors related to ...
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