

Research report template

Your research topic: _____

1. Introduction (200 words)

- Briefly introduce the research topic and its relevance to health and social care.
- Explain why this issue is important in the UK context (e.g., impact on individuals, families, and healthcare services).
- State the aim of the research (e.g., to explore a particular issue, its challenges, and possible solutions).
- Outline what the report will cover (problem identification, justification, sources, research methodology, and data collection).

2. Research topic identification

2.1 Identifying the problem/issue (200 words)

- Clearly define the issue within the health and social care sector.
- Provide background information (e.g., relevant statistics, policies, or reports).
- Explain how this issue affects individuals, professionals, and the wider healthcare system.

2.2 Justification for the research (200 words)

- Why is this research important?
 - **Social importance:** Impact on people receiving or providing care.
 - **Practical importance:** Need for better policies, training, or resources.
 - **Research gap:** Any areas that require further investigation.
- Explain why understanding this issue can lead to improvements in the sector.

2.3 Literature review (300 words)

- Identify three sources (e.g., academic journal articles, government reports, books, or websites like the NHS).
- For each source:
 - Summarise what it discusses.
 - Justify why it is relevant to your research.
 - Explain how it will support your study (e.g., providing statistics, expert opinions, or case studies).

2.4 Research methodology (200 words)

- Define what research methodology is, then describe the types of research methodology
 - **Qualitative research:** Focuses on understanding experiences, opinions, and behaviours. Uses interviews, focus groups, or case studies.

- **Quantitative research:** Focuses on numerical data and statistics. Uses surveys, experiments, or secondary statistical data.
- **Mixed-Methods research:** Combines both qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- State your chosen methodology (**qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods**) and justify your choice of methodology to be used in your research:
 - How does this methodology help in understanding your research issue?
 - Why is it more suitable than other methodologies for your topic?
 - If using **qualitative research**: How will interviews, case studies, or textual analysis provide insight?
 - If using **quantitative research**: What kind of numerical data will be collected or analysed?
 - If using **mixed-methods**: How will both approaches complement each other?

3. Data collection

3.1 Primary vs. Secondary Data (100 words)

- Define and explain the difference between:
 - **Primary data:** First-hand data collected through methods like interviews, surveys, or observations.
 - **Secondary data:** Existing sources such as reports, journal articles, government statistics, or books.

3.2 Data choice for this research (150 words)

- State which type of data will be used (primary, secondary, or both) and justify why.
 - If using **primary data**: Describe potential data collection methods (e.g., interviews, focus groups, or surveys).
 - If using **secondary data**: Explain how existing literature, reports, and studies contribute to your research.

4. Conclusion (150 words)

- Summarise the key points of your research.
- Reflect on the importance of understanding this issue in health and social care.
- Mention any recommendations for future research, policy changes, or practical improvements.

5. References

- Provide a full reference list using Harvard referencing style.

Ensure all sources cited in the text are included in this section.