



Research Proposal

- AN INTRODUCTION

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WHAT IS A RESEARCH PROPOSAL?

- ▶ A research proposal is a **structured, formal document that explains what you plan to research** (your research topic), why it's worth researching (your justification), and how you plan to investigate it (your methodology).

COMPONENTS OF A GOOD RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- ▶ Concise and Coherent summary of the proposed research
- ▶ Sets out the core issues or questions that your research intends to address
- ▶ Outlines the general area of study by discussing the current state of knowledge and recent debates surrounding your research subject
- ▶ Demonstrates the originality of your proposed research

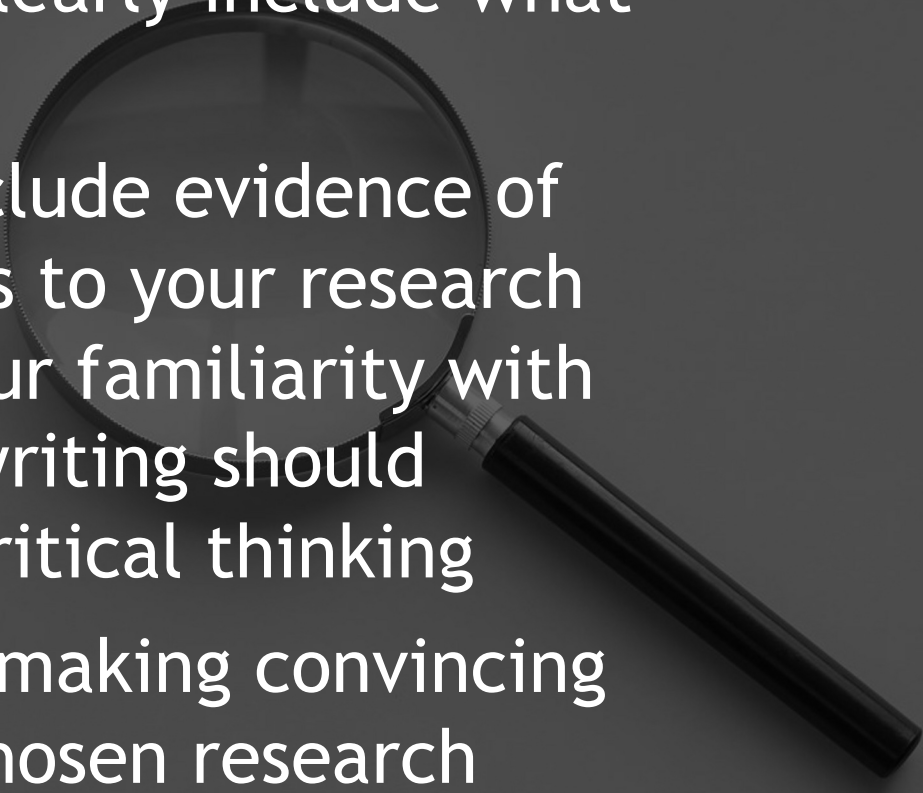


IMPORTANCE OF A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- ▶ Most important Document in the application process when you apply for higher studies like MPhil , Doctorate etc.
- ▶ Important step towards completing your academic dissertations at undergrad/post grad level
- ▶ Demonstrate your aptitude for higher order thinking skills
- ▶ Shows that you can write/discuss/communicate complex ideas: clearly, concisely and critically
- ▶ Helps to match you with an experienced supervisor



Key stages in planning a Research Proposal

- ▶ Focus: Your Proposal should clearly include what you want to focus on
 - ▶ Critical Reading: You must include evidence of literature studied that relates to your research question and demonstrate your familiarity with chosen research topic. Your writing should demonstrate an element of critical thinking
 - ▶ Support: Ensure that you are making convincing arguments to support your chosen research question, for e.g. supporting your arguments with literature
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Cont..

- Methodology :
Demonstrate a sound understanding of methodology to investigate your research subject.
For
e.g. questionnaires, surveys etc.

Structure of the Research Proposal

Put the following in order as on a RP
GROUP ACTIVITY 1

1. Time scales

2. Research questions

3. Literature Review

4. Aims and objectives

5. References

6. Table of content

7. Research methodology

8. Appendices

9. Research question

10. Abstract

11. Methodology

12. Title

13. Background and introduction



Selecting a Research Topic

- ▶ Interest in the subject
- ▶ Future Career Plans
- ▶ Working Title

An illustration on the left side of the slide. It features a dark grey vertical band. Within this band, there are five light bulbs. Four are at the top, hanging in a row, drawn with white chalk-like outlines. Below them, centered, is a single light bulb drawn in yellow with short yellow lines radiating from it to represent it being lit. The background of the slide is a dark blue-grey on the left and a green geometric pattern of overlapping triangles on the right.

Group Activity 2

- ▶ START THINKING ABOUT A POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPIC FOR A FEW MINUTES AND EXPLAIN WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT
- ▶ WE CAN DISCUSS THIS IN CLASS! :)



The Introduction

- ▶ Overview of the research topic
- ▶ What is the research looking at specifically?
- ▶ Why the Research is important?
- ▶ What are the Aims and Objectives of your Research
- ▶ Research Questions

Cont..

► Context and Background:

- Begin by providing context for your research topic. Mention what is already known about the subject and highlight gaps or areas that need further exploration.
- Explain why your research is relevant and how it contributes to existing knowledge in your field.

Cont..

- ▶ **Research Problem and Question:**
 - ▶ Clearly state the **research problem** you aim to address. What specific issue or gap are you investigating?
 - ▶ Formulate a concise **research question** that guides your study. This question should be clear, focused, and aligned with your research objectives.

Cont..

► Significance and Purpose:

- Articulate the importance of your research. Why is it valuable? How will it advance scientific understanding or benefit society?
- Describe how your study's outcomes will impact the field, stakeholders, or the broader community.
- Pro Tip : Remember, a well-crafted introduction not only informs but also persuades funders and readers to support your research proposal.



The Literature Review

The introduction should:

1. define your topic and provide an appropriate context for reviewing the literature;
2. establish your reasons – i.e. point of view – for reviewing the literature;
3. explain the organisation – i.e. sequence – of the review;
4. state the scope of the review – i.e. what is included and what isn't included.

For e.g. :

If you were reviewing the literature on obesity in children you might say something like: There are a large number of studies of obesity trends in the general population. However, since the focus of this research is on obesity in children, these will not be reviewed in detail and will only be referred to as appropriate.

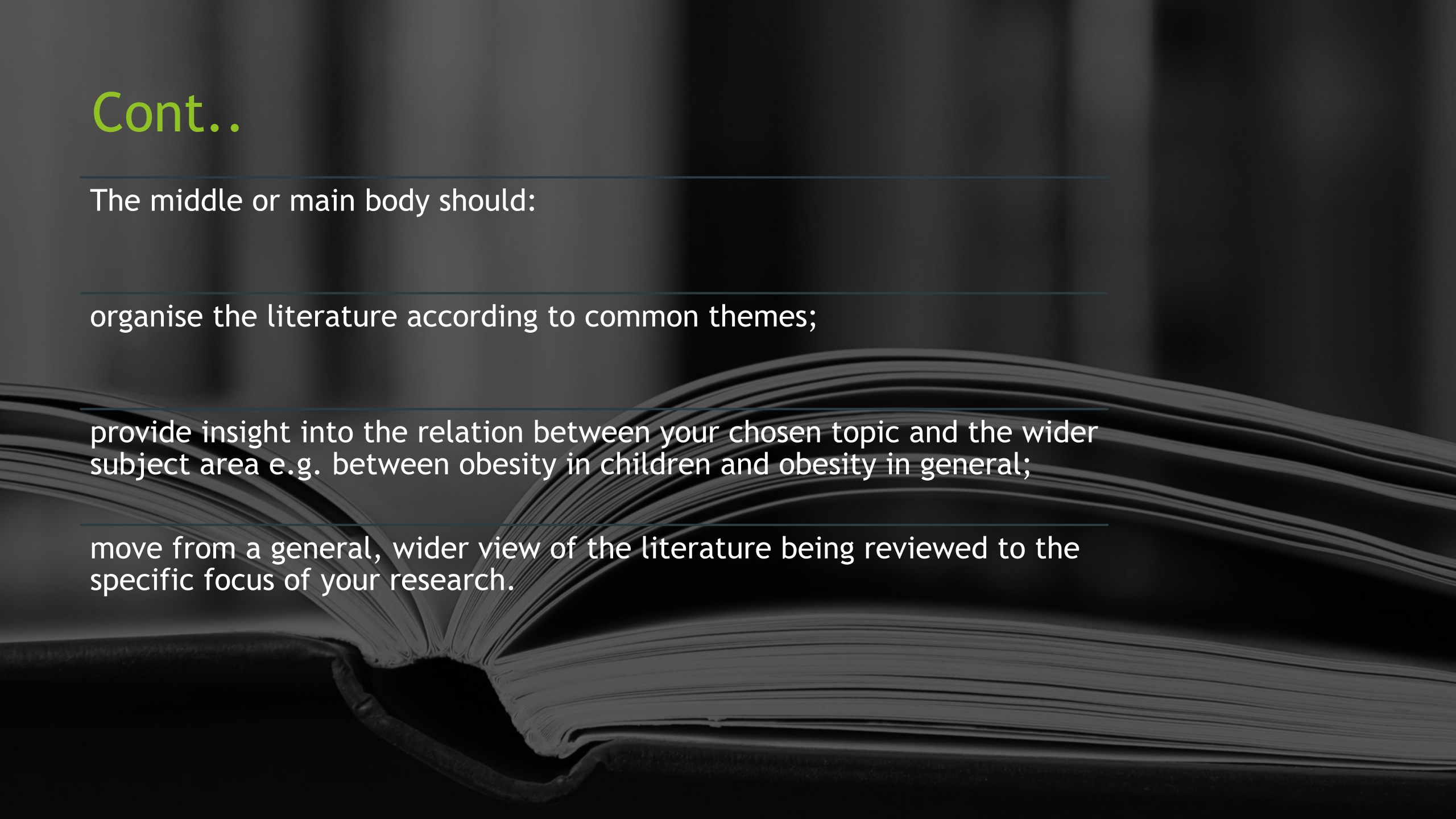
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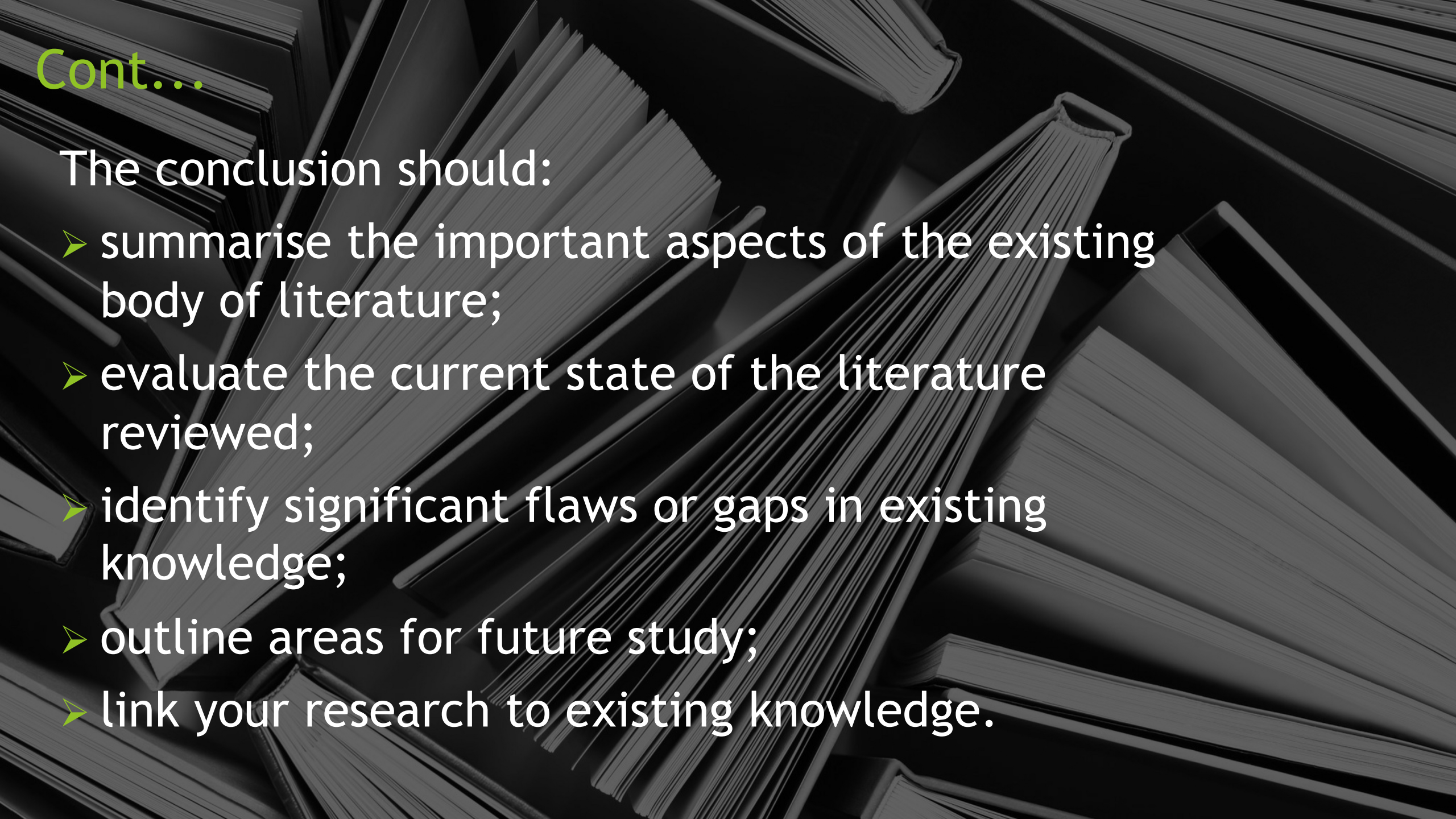
The middle or main body should:

organise the literature according to common themes;

provide insight into the relation between your chosen topic and the wider subject area e.g. between obesity in children and obesity in general;

move from a general, wider view of the literature being reviewed to the specific focus of your research.



The background of the slide is a grayscale image showing a large, disorganized pile of books. The spines of the books are visible, creating a dense, textured pattern of lines and angles. The lighting is dramatic, with some areas being brighter than others, highlighting the edges of the pages and the thickness of the volumes.

Cont...

The conclusion should:

- summarise the important aspects of the existing body of literature;
- evaluate the current state of the literature reviewed;
- identify significant flaws or gaps in existing knowledge;
- outline areas for future study;
- link your research to existing knowledge.

Methodology

- ▶ Broadly of two types: Qualitative and Quantitative
- ▶ Possibly different names include Research Design, Materials and methods
- ▶ Refer back to your literature review
- ▶ Methodology should be appropriate to your research question
- ▶ Justify the choice of your methods

Ethics

Ethics Form

Any Harm to
people/animals/university/company/organisation

Data Protection

Use of Artificial Intelligence

GDPR FOR DATA PROTECTION

ANTI PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

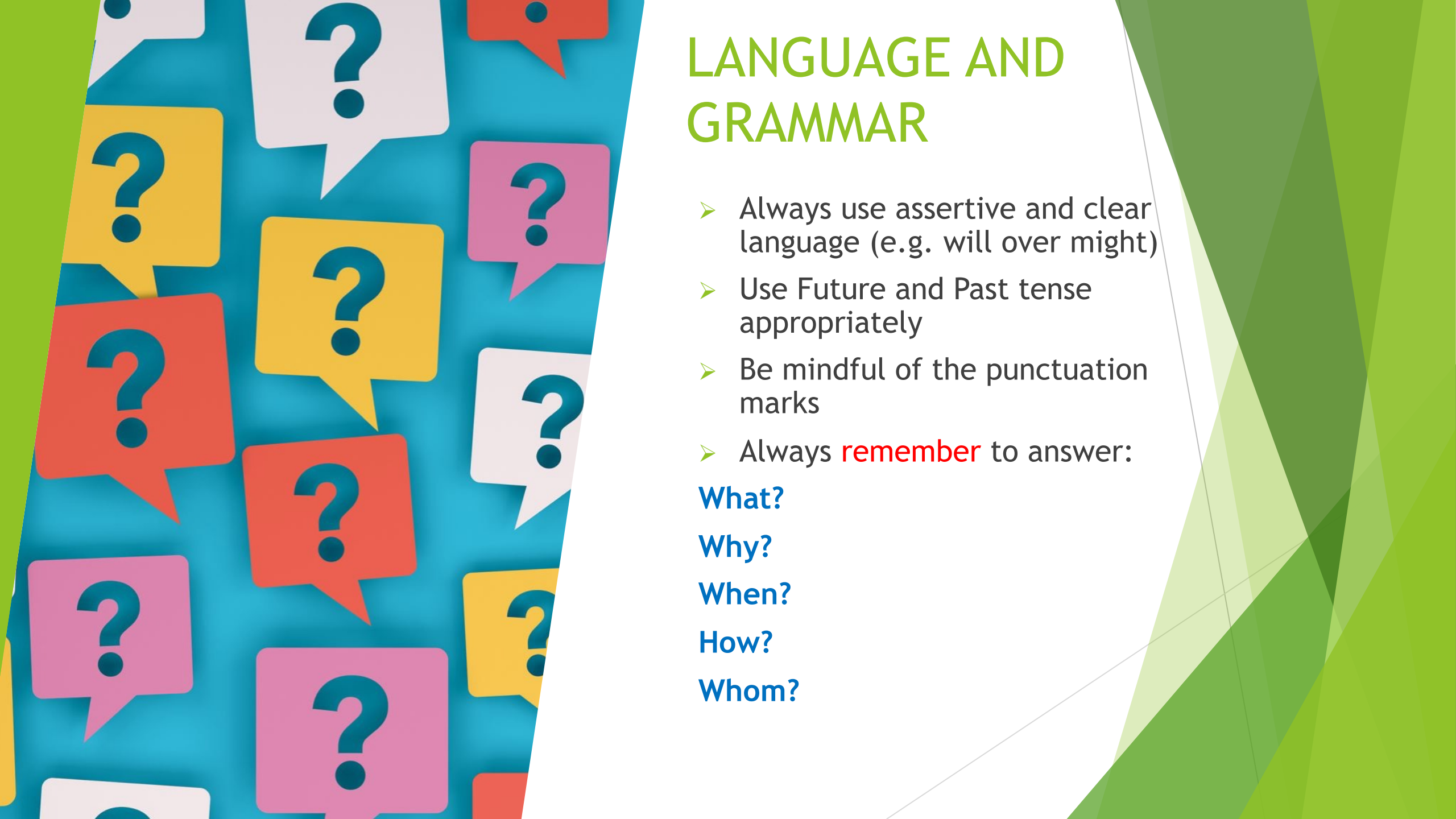
DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

Risk Assessments (if required)

- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Permissions from employer/academic Director/any relevant authority
- ▶ **Pro Tip** : Discuss with your Supervisor/Tutor

References

- ▶ Mandatory to include a list of references at the end of your research proposal
- ▶ Important for supporting your literature review, research questions and methodology
- ▶ Credibility
- ▶ Shows that you have done reading and from CREDIBLE SOURCES
- ▶ SHOWS THAT YOU KNOW YOUR SUBJECT AND RESEARCH TOPIC WELL TO START BUILDING YOUR RP BEFITTING SCHOLARLY STANDARDS OF LEVEL 5 STUDIES!!!
- ▶ Follow **HARVARD STYLE OF REFERENCING ONLY AS PER UWTSD GUIDELINES**
- ▶ Please follow the link to access the **HARVARD REFERENCING GUIDE**
- ▶ **https://intranet.uwtsd.ac.uk/sites/intranet/files/2023-10/Harvard%20en_v.1.3%20%28V6%29.pdf**



LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR

- Always use assertive and clear language (e.g. will over might)
- Use Future and Past tense appropriately
- Be mindful of the punctuation marks
- Always **remember** to answer:

What?

Why?

When?

How?

Whom?

Any Questions/Feedback

Thank you



Useful Links for self-help:

- ▶ [Understanding Research Questions and Objectives \[Video-2\] \(youtube.com\)](#)
- ▶ [Components of a research proposal \[Video-5\] \(youtube.com\)](#)