

Writing about method

- 1 Ensure you have decided your research question before embarking on writing about your method(s) for answering it.
- 2 Identify the range of methods available to you for answering your question.
- 3 State which method(s) you selected and, for each one, provide the rationale. In particular:
 - a. evaluate the method, identifying its strengths and weaknesses;
 - b. identify the main advantage(s) – specifically for answering your question – of your selected method relative to the other main candidates.
- 4 Report your method step by step. Provide sufficient detail to:
 - a. support replication of your study;
 - b. help the reader to evaluate the validity of your study and identify any potential bias introduced by your choice of method.
- 5 In particular, take care to record any deviation from standard procedures.
- 6 Use the word 'method' to refer to something you did (comparable to a procedure or technique) and 'methodology' to refer only to discussion about (as opposed to mere reporting of) method.

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Resource

Heather Silyn-Roberts, *Writing for science and engineering: papers, presentations and reports* (Butterworth-Heinemann, 2000)

About Frontinus

We help engineers with bids, presentations, papers, reports, and publications.

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