

Table of Contents of Materials
on **Academic Writing** in the *Social Sciences / Sociology*
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PRINT THIS DOCUMENT OUT FOR EASIER USE

The *Table of Contents* (or outline), beginning on page three, features available study notes and articles on different topics related to academic writing in the social sciences. The *Table* or outline is divided into nine sections. The pdf documents, available for free download, are all in this section, entitled:

STUDY NOTES on *Writing in the Social Sciences*

For each topic in the outline below, the corresponding document is identified by **GOTO DOC**: or by a URL (https:). As an example, say you want to read the material on “Statement of the Problem”: *the lure and hook strategy*. Here is what you would see in the outline:

A. **“Statement of the Problem”**: *the lure and hook strategy*

GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials (p. 2)

GOTO DOC directs you to the pdf document in this section (as shown below), which you may open and download if you wish.

Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials

[DOWNLOAD](#)

Below I provide a list of the pdf documents in this **STUDY NOTES** section:

Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials

Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 1

Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 2

Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 3

Research Writing[Outlines]

Thesis Statements[Study Notes]

Theoretical Frameworks[Ngulube, Mathipa & Gumbo]

Theoretical Frameworks[Anfara]

Theoretical Frameworks[#1]

Theoretical Frameworks[#2]

Writing[Sociology]

Social Organization of Social Science Writing

Granovetter[Hidden Outline]

Stanton-Salazar & Spina[Reverse Outline]

Singh & Lukkarila[Academic Writing]

Elements of a Research Paper



*Table of Contents of Materials on **Academic Writing** in the Social Sciences / Sociology*
(next page)

I. Writing Formats in the Realm of Social Science: The Organization of a Social Science Research Papers, Journal Articles, and Books

B. “Statement of the Problem” (SP): *the lure and hook strategy*

GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials

C. More Insights on Writing a “Statement of the Problem.”

GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 2 (p. 18)

- 1) Identifying a research question and pursuing a small empirical study
MMC Classroom Assignment (John Kaiser, PhD):
- 2) [from editage.com]: A *statement of the problem* is used in research work as a claim that outlines the problem addressed by a study; *addressing an existing gap in knowledge in the field.*

GOTO DOC: Research Writing[Outlines]

ALSO SEE: <https://www.editage.com/insights/the-basics-of-writing-a-statement-of-the-problem-for-your-research-proposal>

D. “Writing my Introductory Sentences after I Finish the Body of my Text...”

Howard Becker: (Chapter 8 is available online, but not the entire book.)

GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 2 (p. 5)

ALSO SEE: <https://www.thesis scientist.com/docs/Articles/09c47b2b-1ece-4920-b61f-5a9d7d2faad5>

Research Question → research → development of thesis → development of argument

II. Thesis Statements & Theoretical Orientation

A. Outline that focuses on identifying *theoretical orientation* and concepts (for writing a research paper)

GOTO DOC: Research Writing[Outlines]

GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials

B. What is a thesis statement? Two types of thesis statements:

- 1) *deductive organization*
- 2) *inductive organization* (author states thesis at the end of work—builds toward a more general conclusion; much like a fact-finding mission, where no one knows the conclusion (or main findings) until the end. Perhaps a literature falls in the category easily.

GOTO DOC: Thesis Statements[Study Notes] (p. 2)

C. Deductive Reasoning: (Margaret Rouse) (*vs.* inductive reasoning)

GOTO DOC: Thesis Statements[Study Notes] (pp. 5-6)

D. **Argument Combo can have different forms of organization or underlying structure** GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials (p. 4)

E. **Semi-inductive approach or organization:** Thesis statements can be placed in different sections of a paper/article, depending on how the author wants to present the entire piece, that is, his or her approach. See notes on Bloom's article on empathy; Bloom takes a semi-inductive, or, better said, waits to deliver this punch.

GOTO DOC: Thesis Statements[Study Notes] (p. 2)

NOTE: Do not expect to come up with a fully formulated thesis statement before you have finished writing the paper. **The thesis will inevitably change** as you revise and develop your ideas—and that is ok! Start with a tentative thesis and revise as your paper develops.

NOTE: Indeed, I encourage students to not formulate a thesis right away, but rather to start with a *research question*, [specifying evolving thesis (to *oneself*), to what they believe to be the case, leaving open the possibility that they may have to revise their thinking on this issue.].

F. **Crafting a Thesis Statement** David Zimmerman
GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials (p. 3)

SEE ALSO: <https://writing.wisc.edu/wac/crafting-a-thesis-statement/>

G. **Thesis, Quotations, Introductions, and Conclusions** (*Writing and Reading Across the Curriculum*) Behren & Rosen
<https://writing.wisc.edu/wac/crafting-a-thesis-statement/>

H. **Defining the Thesis Statements** (Center for Writing Studies)
<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/tips/thesis/>

I. **From Topic to Thesis** (Tisha Turk, Women's Studies 101): A well-constructed thesis statement helps hold an essay together by showing the reader where the paper is going to go. It defines not just a paper's topic but its argument, and ...]
<https://dept.writing.wisc.edu/wac/tag/gender-and-womens-studies/>

III. Thesis Statements: Writing for Sociology

A. **Thesis Statements and Arguments**, (Chapter 5), in *Instructor's Guide to Writing for Sociology* (Compiled and Written by Hanna Emery, et al.) UC Berkeley
https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Instructors_guide.final.corrected.title.page.pdf

B. [the] **Sociological Argument**

- 1) **Making a Sociological Argument:** Orienting Students to a New Field (Greta Krippner) GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 1 (p. 10)
- 2) **“A social science paper is an argument.”** (an assertion that can be supported with evidence.) (Writing a Good Social Science Paper, UCSD)
<https://pages.ucsd.edu/~keferree/Writing%20a%20Good%20Social%20Science%20Paper.htm>
- 3) **Argument Defined:** *A form of expression consisting of a coherent set of reasons (facts, evidence) presenting or supporting a point of view; a series of reasons given for or against a matter under discussion that is intended to convince or persuade the listener.* GOTO DOC: Thesis Statements[Study Notes] (p. 5)
- 4) **Two Strategies for Making a Sociological Argument**
GOTO DOC: Thesis Statements[Study Notes] (p. 9)
 - Establish a relationship between two or more phenomena (variables).
 - Establish a mechanism. (*how* and *why*)
 - Avoid writing your paper as a **blow-by-blow** of your thought process while you were working out your argument. The reader begins reading where you, the author, ended in thought. Thus, what they get is concise statement of your argument. (p. 11)

IV. **How to Build a Theoretical Framework**

GOTO DOC: Theoretical Frameworks[#1]

GOTO DOC: Thesis Statements[Study Notes] (p. 21, Mike Rucker)

GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 1 (p. 23, Mike Rucker)

GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Review of Essentials (p. 8)

SEE ALSO: <https://unstuck.me/build-theoretical-model/>

- A. *What is a Theoretical Framework? A Practical Answer* (Lederman & Lederman)
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10972-015-9443-2>
- B. *Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks in the Social and Management Studies* (Ngulube, Mathipa, & Gumbo) GOTO DOC: Theoretical Frameworks[Ngulube, Mathipa & Gumbo]
- C. *Theoretical Frameworks in Qualitative Research* (Anfara, Vincent)
GOTO DOC: Theoretical Frameworks[Anfara]
- D. *Concepts and Constructs in Quantitative Research*
GOTO DOC: Theoretical Frameworks[#2]

V. Social Theory

- A. **Introduction to Sociological Theory** GOTO DOC: Writing[Sociology].docx (p. 5)
- B. [notes on] Abend, Gabriel. "The Meaning of Theory." *Sociological Theory* 26 (June 2008): 173–199; Swanson, Richard A. *Theory Building in Applied Disciplines*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers 2013
GOTO DOC: Thesis Statements[Study Notes] (see p. 22)
- C. **A Brief Guide to Writing Social Theory** (Savannah Jeffreys)
<https://www.wesleyan.edu/writing/writingworkshop/Writing%20Workshop/writing%20theory.pdf>
- D. **Writing Papers that Apply Sociological Theories** (University of Washington)
<https://soc.washington.edu/writing-papers-apply-sociological-theories-or-perspectives>
- E. **Critique and Overcritique in Sociology**
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/h/humfig/11217607.0002.205/--critique-and-overcritique-in-sociology?rgn=main;view=fulltext>

VI. THE STRUCTURE OF A MANUSCRIPT: Outlines

- A. **Social Organization of Social Science Writing** (the basic sections of a journal manuscript)
GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 2 (p. 3)
GOTO DOC: Social Organization of Social Science Writing
- B. **Research Papers Based on Collected Data:** Where to put your thesis.
Howard Becker's Methods (*Writing for Social Scientists*)
[Becker argues against an inductive approach, preferring instead a *deductive format*, introductions that state the findings and *theses* up front—followed by specific findings; this would mean writing an introduction last (or beginning with a less than precise intro, then coming back to rewrite.)]

NOTE: Many published articles don't do this; rather they follow the format that dissertations follow: research questions, lit review, analyses & findings later.
SEE: Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 2 (Becker material begins on p. 8)

C. Outlines and the Writing Process

- 1) The Benefits of *Reverse Outlines* (Jack Delehanty)
<https://thesocietypages.org/teaching/2016/10/25/the-benefits-of-reverse-outlines/>
- 2) **Writing using BLOCKS & Headings** (Stanton-Salazar)
GOTO DOC: Writing in the Social Sciences: Part 2 (p. 3)

VII. Revealing the Hidden Outline and Organization of a Research Article: (Deconstructed articles below.)

Granovetter, M. GOTO DOC: Granovetter[Hidden Outline]

Stanton-Salazar, R. D. and Stephanie U. Spina. (2000). “The Network Orientations of Highly Resilient Urban Minority Youth.” *The Urban Review: Issues and Ideas in Public Education*, 32, 3 (review/critique of research literature, and theoretical essay). See sample below.
GOTO DOC: Stanton-Salazar & Spina[Hidden Outline]

VIII. TEACHING WRITING IN SOCIOLOGY (& Teaching Guides)

- A. *Instructor’s Guide to Writing for Sociology* (Compiled and Written by Hanna Emery, et al.) <https://dept.writing.wisc.edu/wac/teaching-revision/>
- B. *Teaching Revision* [DOCS] (Becker Hanna and others; University of Wisconsin) <https://dept.writing.wisc.edu/wac/teaching-revision/>
- C. *Teaching Writing in Sociology: A Social Constructionist Approach* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1318488.pdf?seq=1>

IX. TEACHING ACADEMIC WRITING I: *Elements of Academic Writing*

- A. *Successful Academic Writing*. Singh & Lukkarila [Book]
GOTO DOC: Singh & Lukkarila[Academic Writing]
- B. A Brief Overview of Three Types of Literature Review
<https://unstuck.me/brief-overview-three-types-literature-review/>
- C. The Critical Literature Review
https://sociology.fas.harvard.edu/files/sociology/files/literature_review.pdf
- D. *Elements of a Research Paper* (RSS)
GOTO DOC: Elements of a Research Paper
- E. *Quantitative Dissertations: The Quantitative Dissertations* (Lærd Dissertation helps guide you through the process of doing a quantitative dissertation)
<http://dissertation.laerd.com/quantitative-dissertations.php>
- F. *Styles of Writing: Descriptive, analytical & reflective*
<https://libguides.reading.ac.uk/writing/stylesofwriting>
- G. Analysis, in: *A Sequences for Academic Writing* (Behren & Rosen)
<https://www.amazon.com/Sequence-Academic-Writing-7th/dp/0134398505>
- H. *Teaching Writing in Sociology: A Social Constructivist Approach*, Anderson & Holt (journal article)
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1318488.pdf?seq=1>

- I. *Teaching Writing in the Social Sciences* (Three Models) Hansen, et al
https://wac.colostate.edu/atd/articles/hansen_adams2010.cfm
- J. *Writing in the Social Sciences I* (Notes compiled by Stanton-Salazar) (online)
<https://www.stanton-salazar.com/publications>
- K. *Writing in the Social Sciences II* (Notes compiled by Stanton-Salazar) (online)
<https://www.stanton-salazar.com/publications>
- L. *Writing in the Social Sciences III* (Notes compiled by Stanton-Salazar) (online)
<https://www.stanton-salazar.com/publications>

X. PDF Documents Available Upon Request (rstantonsalazar@icloud.com)

Principal Sections of a publishable Research Paper (Stanton-Salazar)

Combining Belcher, Singh & Lukkarila, Swales STUDY NOTES

Version: 10/12/20 DOC: Sections of a Research Paper

STUDY NOTES on Belcher, W.L.

Belcher, Wendy L. (2019) *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* (second edition) By [Wendy Laura Belcher](#)

University of Chicago Press, June 2019. ISBN-13: 978-0226499918

STUDY NOTES on Singh, A. A., & Lukkarila, L.

Singh, A. A., & Lukkarila, L. (2017). *Successful academic writing: A complete guide for social and behavioral scientists*. Guilford Press.

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2017-21713-000>