

Step in Introduction	Tense	Example
Background to describe current state of knowledge on the research subject (broad-specific)	Present	Thermal transpiration is a phenomenon that only needs a temperature gradient to create a gas flow between a cold end and a hot one of a channel.
Literature review* of previous studies on the subject <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results previously published by others (study completed or date in sentence) Results from unspecified time in past/incomplete or ongoing studies * This should be a <i>critical analysis</i> of main approaches, results, limitations etc.	Past simple Present perfect	Smith et al. (2020) showed that... Several researchers have investigated the effect of... [1,2]. Since 2016, there have been many attempts to establish an index...[5, 6, 10].
The research gap What is the exact gap in knowledge that your study hopes to fill? Cite any existing studies or conflicting data to highlight gap	Present Present perfect	It remains unknown whether... The effect of X on Y remains unclear. To date, researchers have not proven... No study to date has investigated...
The aim of the study Include some extra information about the parameters you will study, the system, etc. for context.	Past simple	We aimed to identify/assess/evaluate...
Outline of report	Present	In Section 2 we discuss... Part 2 contains....