

Step in Introduction	Tense	Example
<p>Background to describe current state of knowledge on the research subject (broad-specific)</p>	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.
<p>Literature review* of previous studies on the subject</p> <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 <p>* This should be a <i>critical analysis</i> of main approaches, results, limitations etc.</p>	<p>Past simple</p> <p>Present perfect</p>	<p>Smith et al. (2020) showed that...</p> <p>Several researchers have investigated the effect of... [1,2]. Since 2016, there have been many attempts to establish an index...[5, 6, 10].</p>
<p>The research gap</p> <p>What is the exact gap in knowledge that your study hopes to fill? Cite any existing studies or conflicting data to highlight gap</p>	<p>Present</p> <p>Present perfect</p>	<p>It remains unknown whether... The effect of X on Y remains unclear.</p> <p>To date, researchers have not proven... No study to date has investigated...</p>
<p>The aim of the study</p> <p>Include some extra information about the parameters you will study, the system, etc. for context.</p>	Past simple	We aimed to identify/assess/evaluate...
<p>Outline of report</p>	Present	In Section 2 we discuss... Part 2 contains....