Aims of Research

Research writers analyze primary and secondary literature to achieve three general aims of research, aims based in audience expectations that have become, therefore, formal features of argumentative research writing: (a) literature review, (b) counterargument, and (c) core argument (see Turabian chapters 6 and 10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research question</th>
<th>Literature review</th>
<th>Thesis statement</th>
<th>Counterarguments</th>
<th>Core argument</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific, focused question connected to a problem or issue (see Turabian 2.2 and 10.1.2)</td>
<td>Survey of others’ answers toward situating one’s own thesis (see Turabian 6.2.2 and 10.1.1)</td>
<td>Specific, qualified claim that answers the research question clearly (see Turabian 2.2, 5.3, and 10.1.4)</td>
<td>rejoinder to one or more opposing viewpoints (see Turabian 5.2, 5.4.3, and 6.2.8.3)</td>
<td>development of one’s positive argument to support the main claim (see Turabian 2.3, 5.4, and 6.2)</td>
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A. Literature review

Survey of viewpoints or pathways in a specific conversation:
Write a literature review toward (a) surveying prior research, also categorizing or differentiating the perspectives; (b) situating one’s thesis in the conversation, and also (c) creating significance by posing the question as a problem.

B. Counterarguments

Anticipates question why:
Why is your view best?
Why not another viewpoint?
Write counterarguments against opposing viewpoints by agreeing and disagreeing creatively.

C. Core argument

Develop one’s core argument:
Learn from other writers toward (a) refining the research question, (b) clarifying the answering thesis, and (c) improving reasons, specifying warrants, and expanding evidence.

Write in view of target readers and in a mode of comparison-contrast with other viewpoints or pathways in the on-going conversation.