

Research Methods

A Textbook for EFL Learners

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Preface

Research is the entry to the world of science and inquiry. Current trends in education underscore the valuable role of research in individuals' ability to think and learn. However, learning about research is a challenging activity. Students' efforts in the struggle for learning the theoretical issues and their strenuous activities to conduct a study make research a subject which requires due consideration. The central aims of this book are to facilitate learning the process of research and to enable students with English majors to surmount the obstacles they confront in writing research reports.

The book adopts a progressive approach towards teaching research and attempts to introduce basic concepts in a very simple language. Most of the concepts recur throughout the book to enhance learning. The numerous examples epitomize self-study books and reduce overreliance on classroom instruction. Also, several tasks and activities, exclusively designed for this book, offer students with ample opportunities to practice the concepts.

The book is devised in three discrete sections. The first section introduces key concepts in research. Presentation of the rudiments in a simple language encourages learning and urges students to understand the spirit of the educational research. The book continues with a section on writing research papers. This section begins with some guidelines for selecting a research topic. Then various characteristics of the literature review are explained. The last chapter of the second section elucidates the structure of a thesis. The final section of the book provides a survival guide to statistics. This section, by no

means, attempts to teach statistics in its broad sense; it is merely a brief introduction.

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