

THE HOURGLASS FIGURE

What is the hourglass figure?

The format behind a literature review.

Creates an easy-to-use outline format for writing.

Allows you to answer questions related to your topic.

Organizes your paper.

Sections:

Context- What are you researching? What is the bigger problem? What is the issue? What is the historical background of your topic?

Need- What is the current need for this research? Why is your topic important to study and understand?

Research Question- Based on the historical context and current need, what is your research question for your paper? What question are you trying to answer?

Proof- Research presented by peer-reviewed literature to answer your research question. Use this section to defend/prove your argument. This is the most common starting point.

Results- The most important and key results of your readings. Interpretation of proof section. This section directly answers your research question. What is your proof section telling you? What does your proof mean?

Implications- Prove the significance of your research to the larger community. Why should a random person on the street care? Tell me why your research and findings matter. This section is looking ahead towards the future—propose solutions, what is being done currently, etc.

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