**Develop a Research Question**

The best kind of research projects emerge from personal interests and/or commitment to a specific area of study. We do not always have to feel drawn to a topic positively, however, to make it a good research project. Sometimes topics that we feel negative or neutral about can provide a strong starting point as well.

**Find sources**

The most general way to begin is through broad reference sources like encyclopedias and the academic search site GoogleScholar. These sources should help refine the research question. You need to be cautious about using electronic research sites since much that can be retrieved might actually be questionable or irrelevant to your project.

**Describe methodology**

* Data collection:

Where is your data coming from? How was it recorded and obtained? Are there any specific pecularities associated with your data set?

* Overview of data:

Provide a descriptive overview of your data, e.g. show the percentages of male/female participants, nationalities of your participants, mean length of utterance per participant etc., depending on your research question. See for instance:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **N** | **%** | **Highest education**  |
|  | **Primary education** | **Secondary education**  | **Tertiary education**  |
| ***Generation 1 (born in 1950’s and 60’s)*** | *16* | *50* | *5* | *2* | *9* |
|  Female | *8* | *25* | *1* | *2* | *4* |
|  Male | *8* | *25* | *4* | *0* | *5* |
| ***Generation 2 (born in 1980’s and 90’s)*** | *16* | *50* | *4* | *3* | *9* |
|  Female | *7* | *21.9* | *3* | *2* | *2* |
|  Male | *9* | *28.1* | *1* | *1* | *7* |

* Description of data analysis

Which devices and tools did you use for your analysis? What calculations did you make? See for instance:

Speech of Korean language learners and German first-language speakers was recorded with a Sennheiser ME67 microphone attached to a ZoomH4n digital audio recorder and sampled at a rate of 44.1 kHz with 16-bit depth. Target words containing word-final |s| were manually identified and cut to be saved as separate .wav files. The .wav files were then loaded into Penn Phonetics Lab Forced Aligner for English (Yuan & Liberman, 2009), which output a Textgrid file for use in Praat (Boersma & Weenink, 2007).

**Results**

What were the results of your analyses? Provide graphs to show aspects of your data or relationships between data points.

**Discussion of results**

What does your data show? What trends and relationships can you make out? Do your results confirm previous studies? Try to explain unexpected results. Provide interpretations of the graphs from your results section. How do your findings fit into the larger body of research that exists on the topic?

**References**

Please use APA Style (<https://apastyle.apa.org>). There are two ways to make sure you are getting your citations right:

1. Go to an online guide and follow it strictly.

2. Use citation [software](https://dl1.cuni.cz/mod/glossary/showentry.php?eid=67921&displayformat=dictionary). Here, you have many options but two are frequently used in academia:

a) Endnote

b) Zotero: [https://www.zotero.org](https://www.zotero.org/).

These are programs that find references on Google Scholar or any library database for you and automatically record all the necessary information and, often, copy the entire document. Then, using a word processor, they will put the citation into your document using any preferred style (for example, APA) and then create a reference list using any preferred style (such as APA).  This way, you never lose a reference and never deviate from APA style. Zotero is free, Endnote is provided by most universities. I highly recommend you download one of the two, get used to using it and use it from the beginning of your research.