

# Capstone Project

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Sections of the Master's Paper

# Overview of Presentation

- Organizing your Master's Paper
- Creating an Outline
- Sections of the Master's Paper
  - Title Page
  - Abstract
  - Introduction
  - Purpose Statement
  - Literature Review
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Discussion
  - Conclusion
  - References
  - Appendices
- Another Writing Resource
  - Public Health Student Online Writing Tutorial



# Organizing your Master's Paper

- The presentations (including this one) describe various sections of your Master's Paper
  - However . . .
- You do NOT have to organize your paper in this fashion
  - You don't need to use the section titles as listed
- Use section titles that work for YOUR paper
- Samples for various sections are provided
  - These are not perfect, but they're good examples written by previous students



# Creating an Outline

- Helps you organize your thoughts and your paper
  - Use as a planning tool
- Required to submit with each section of paper
  - Do not need to submit with final draft
- Organize using section titles
  - Generic sample/explanation provided on next slide
- Further information provided in second writing tutorial presentation, The Pre-Writing Stage  
[http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing\\_Presentation2.pdf](http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing_Presentation2.pdf)

# Generic Outline

- I. Introduction / Background
  - A. State topic
  - B. Importance of topic
    - i. Scope of problem
  - C. Review literature (if appropriate)
  - D. Purpose statement / research question(s)
- II. Methods
  - A. Data Collection
  - B. Analysis
- III. Results
  - Organize into sub-sections as appropriate



# Sections of the Master's Paper

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Introduction / Background
- Purpose Statement / Research Question(s)
- Literature Review
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References
- Appendices

Samples of various sections are available



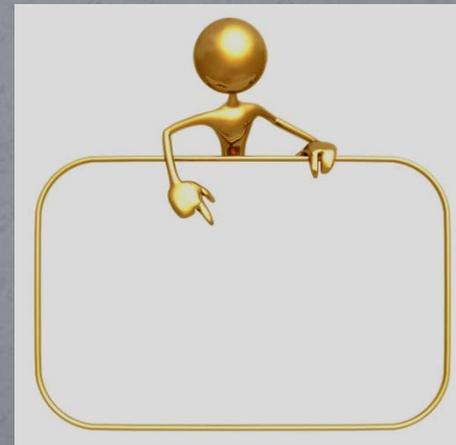
# Title Page

- Follow template

- Available on Capstone Project Master's Paper webpage  
<http://www.mcw.edu/mpsprogram/CulminatingExperiences/CapstoneProject/MastersPaper.htm>
- Direct link to PDF  
<http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Capstone/Sample/TitlePage.pdf>

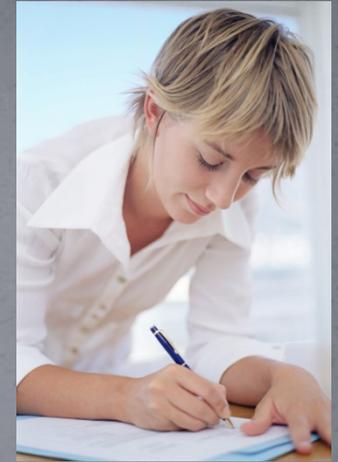
- Include/modify pertinent information

- Title of Project
  - Subtitle, if applicable
- Your Name
- Faculty Advisor's Name
- Date Submitted



# Abstract

- Summarizes the entire paper
- Should be written after the rest of the paper
  - Required as part of the third submission
- Should be written in same organizational scheme as the rest of the paper
  - Can be written as in sections of paper – introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusion
- Length should not exceed 300 words



- Sample abstract available as PDF

[http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing\\_Sample\\_Abstract.pdf](http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing_Sample_Abstract.pdf)

# Introduction & Purpose Statement

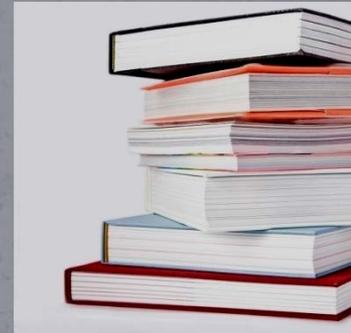
- **Introduction / Background**
  - What is the topic, and why is it important?
  - What other research has been conducted on this topic?
    - What do we already know?
- **Purpose Statement / Research Question(s)**
  - What is the purpose of this paper?
  - What question are you trying to answer?
    - Be brief - If more than 1 purpose/question, limit to 1 short paragraph on each
- Sample introduction (inc. purpose statement) available as PDF



[http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing\\_Sample\\_Intro.pdf](http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing_Sample_Intro.pdf)

# Literature Review

- Literature Review
  - All papers must include lit review
    - Could be included in various sections
      - Introduction/Background
      - Literature Review (as separate section)
      - Results (if performing lit review as project)
    - Choose the most appropriate section for your paper
  - Should provide basis for paper
  - Synthesize & discuss reviewed literature
    - What have previous studies shown?
    - What are the strengths, weaknesses, trends, & opportunities?
  - Must cite numerous reputable sources
    - Ex – journal articles, books, technical reports, etc.



# Methods

- What methodology did you use?
- How did you do your study?
  - Possible methodologies to discuss:
    - Design
    - Setting
    - Participants
    - Intervention
    - Outcome measures
    - Sampling
    - Measurement
    - Data collection
    - Analysis of data



# Results

- What were the results? What did you find?
- What did the study/project demonstrate or accomplish?
- Be detailed and specific
- Consider organizing into sub-sections
- Display information in various formats
  - Use bulleted lists, tables, charts, graphs, etc.
- Sample results section available as PDF



[http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing\\_Sample\\_Results.pdf](http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing_Sample_Results.pdf)

# Discussion



- **Discuss results in detail**
  - What do the results mean?
  - How do they affect the field of public health?
- **Put into context of existing base of knowledge**
  - How do these results fit into data presented in lit review?
  - Do they support/contradict previous findings?
- **Discuss limitations**
  - What were the limitations of this study?
  - Did you encounter any difficulties or barriers in the implementation of this project?
- **Sample discussion section available as PDF**  
[http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing\\_Sample\\_Discussion.pdf](http://www.mcw.edu/FileLibrary/Groups/MPHProgram/Writing_Sample_Discussion.pdf)

# Conclusion

- Discrete conclusions supported by evidence
- Summarize findings
  - Give equal attention to positive and negative conclusions
- Implications of your project
  - Given the results, why is it important?
- Further study/effort implied by conclusions
  - What further research/programs are needed?
  - What do you recommend?



# References

- You **MUST** cite your sources
  - Cite sources in body of paper (not just at end)
- May use any reputable reference format
  - APA, MLA, CBE Citation-Sequence System, scientific journal, or other
  - Be consistent
  - RefWorks available from MCW libraries
    - Web-based bibliographic software
    - Link to RefWorks  
<http://www.mcw.edu/mcwlibraries/RefWorks-Info.htm>



# Appendices

- Additional info / support materials
- Examples
  - Letters of support / IRB letters
  - Survey/interview instruments
  - Data analysis coding sheet
  - Others



# Another Writing Resource

- **Public Health Student Online Writing Tutorial**
  - Available under Resources tab of MPH website  
<http://www.mcw.edu/mphprogram/CurrentStudents/Resources.htm>
  - Provides tools useful for writing public health papers
  - Consists of 3 presentations
    - Writing 101
      - Grammar resources, spelling, plagiarism, MPH student code of ethics
    - The Pre-Writing Stage
      - Initial steps of writing, creating a timeline and outline
    - General Components of a Paper
      - Referencing systems & each section of a paper



# Questions

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