

## Appropriate Verb Tenses By Research Paper Section

### Introduction section

Use a mixture of **present and past tense** in the [introduction section](#).

**The present tense** is applied when discussing something that is always true; **the simple past tense** is used for earlier research efforts, either your own or those reported by another group.

Example of earlier research efforts (simple past): *“This same research team discovered a similar enzyme in their 2012 study.”*

If the time of demonstration is unknown or not important, use **the present perfect**.

Example: *“Prior research has indicated a correlation between X and Y.”*

For the concluding statements of your introduction, use **the simple past** or **present perfect**.

Example of concluding statement (simple past): *“The CalTech glucagon studies were inconclusive.”*

Example of concluding statement (present perfect): *“Prior research in this area has been inconclusive.”*

Use **the past perfect** when you talk about something that happened or was found to be the case in the past, but which has since been revised. Example of revised information (past perfect): *“The Dublonsky study had determined that X was Y, but a 2012 study found this to be incorrect.”*

**Source: Which Verb Tenses Should I Use in a Research Paper?**

<https://wordvice.com/video-which-verb-tenses-should-i-use-in-a-research-paper/>