



Information Management Research or Issues paper: example

Example introduction

Education and literacy have been seen to play such a central role in international development and in tackling global poverty that they have become part of international targets and are central to the mandates of major international organisations. However, due to economic difficulties and the lack of a significant indigenous publishing industry there are rarely the resources available to enable schools to create a literature environment. A common way that NGOs and donors have traditionally attempted to address this lack of resources to support such development is through the donation of surplus Western books and educational material. However, unlike solicited approaches to book donation, recipients of unsolicited donations do not have prior knowledge of the material they are receiving and there is often a lack of consultation with recipients resulting in donations which are largely 'comprise of the materials that libraries would least wish to receive' (Otike 1993, p. 12). This paper argues greater scrutiny needs to be paid to book donation approaches and that library aid needs to be looked at from the recipient's perspective so that library aid donors can be better informed about the people they are serving. Crucial to this is a greater understanding by donors of cultural traits, language barriers and teaching methods of recipients, if there is any hope of addressing the low levels of literacy in developing countries.

Context

Provide the background information so the reader understands where this topic fits in your field and why it is important to discuss it.

Problem statement

Problematise the topic (i.e., look at it critically).

Move from broad to more specific.

Position/argument

This is the controlling idea of your paper.

Everything you present in the body is connected to this position/argument.

Outline of paper

This tells the reader what you are going to discuss in relation to the position/argument presented above.

The ideas in your body paragraphs will explicitly connect to this outline and be presented in the same order.

(Text adapted from Anderson & Matthews 2010, pp. 570-572)

Example body paragraph

Section title

As stated in the outline of your introduction.

Teaching methods

The way in which literacy is taught has an impact on a child's attitude towards reading. This is illustrated by Elley (1992) who analysed the reading literacy scores of 210,059 students, aged 9 and 14, from 9,073 schools across 32 national systems of education, alongside background questionnaires the children completed about their reading at home and at school, and questionnaires filled in by the teachers about themselves and their teaching. He found that in high-scoring countries reading was seen as a pleasant and imaginative activity whereas in low-scoring countries 'reading is perceived as hard work that requires a lot of disciplined effort' (Elley, 1992, p. 89). It is clear from Elley's findings that the approach taken to reading within the school curriculum impacts on literacy success, and that the modes of teaching that result in higher literacy scores are those that foster positive attitudes towards reading.

Topic sentence

Introduce the focus.

Discussion

Explain and support the idea presented in the topic sentence.

Interpret the information presented in the literature and point out the significance or implications as it relates to the topic of the paragraph.

(Text adapted from Anderson & Matthews 2010, p. 574)

Example conclusion

Just as a modernisation philosophy applied to development in general can underplay the importance of human capabilities and contexts, the book donation model when not matched to need and supported with capacity building falls short in its ability to contribute to global priorities for human development. Book donations and enthusiasm from the stakeholders is not sufficient. Donors, working alongside governments must work with information professionals and education experts in ways that understand and utilise the recipient community in order to engage everyone in reading. Western donors must not make assumptions about the community they wish to assist. Thorough consultation with all stakeholders is crucial if inaccurate presumptions that undermine the aims of a project are to be avoided.

Restatement of broad topic

Restatement of the position / argument

Summary of major points raised in the paper

583)

References

Anderson, J & Matthews, P 2010, 'A Malawian school library: culture, literacy and reader development', *Aslib Proceedings: New Information Perspectives*, vol. 62, no. 6, pp. 570-584.