

# Checklist: The research gap

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The research gap must be:

1. A coherent and cohesive whole that speaks directly to a LACK IN PUBLISHED KNOWLEDGE.
2. Clearly described in precise language.
3. Based on a critical discussion of pertinent, updated and accepted academic sources (journal articles, reports, books, websites and so on.)
4. Directly related to the 'research problem' and specific research questions.
5. A new and original text that has an authorial voice and takes a stance on key issues.
6. Accompanied by a definition and explanation of key concepts.
7. A collaborative endeavour in which reading, writing and editing in dialogue with peers is key.
8. Composed of ideas and concepts that can be represented graphically in a mind-map.
9. Meaningful within a specific discourse and scientific community.
10. A text that can be peer reviewed in different iterations by experts in the field.

The author's reputation as a reliable and credible scholar – academic integrity – depends on these qualities.