CARS (Creating A Research Space) Model Workshop[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Move 1: Establishing Territory: What is the situation?**

Why is this aspect of the topic important? What research has been done by whom on it?

1. Claim Centrality: demonstrate the centrality of the topic by discussing previous research or its impact on the world.

* X has been studied extensively…
* There has been a growing interest in…
* Recent studies have focused on…
* X remains a serious problem…[[2]](#footnote-2)

**How will you claim centrality? Brainstorm some possibilities here.**

1. Review items of previous research: what has been researched and by whom?

* X (2018) found that…
* Several researchers have suggested that… (X, 2011, Y, 2020)

**What are some of the key articles or books of previous research on your topic? List some possibilities here as well as how you might use them.**

**Move 2: Establishing A Niche/Gap: What is the problem?**

How are previous research or approaches not complete or why are extensions needed via new perspectives?

Counterclaim: introduce an opposing or contrasting viewpoint or pinpoint a weakness in research.

* However, this view has been challenged by…
* However, the research has so far failed to consider…

Indicate a gap in previous research.

* While there has been a lot of research on X, there has been considerably less on…
* While studies have looked at X from the perspective of…, they have tended to focus less on…

Raise a question about previous research.

* However, it is not clear whether…
* In light of recent developments, a question arises about…

Extend previous research.

* Given the research so far, we should further investigate…
* Therefore, looking at X in the context of… would further our understanding…

**Which of the above approaches might work best for you? Draft this out below.**

**Move 3: Occupying the Niche/Gap: Presenting your Thesis**

Usually you can express this as either purposive or descriptive.

Purposive: the thesis as a purpose that presents the key ideas.

* The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate…
* In this paper, I compare X to Y to demonstrate…

Descriptive: the thesis as a description of key ideas.

* This paper reports on the results of…
* In this paper, I argue that…

Which of these works best for your work? Try both if you are still determining. Draft it below.

1. Adapted from Swales & Feak, *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*, 3rd edition. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, Unit 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For examples of this and other sections of the CARS model sentence formats, see The University of Manchester Academic Phrasebank, <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)