

## Writing about limitations

### Sentence starters

- One limitation of past research is a focus on...
- Past studies have predominantly...
- These studies are limited by...
- The main limitation of past studies has been...
- A limitation of past research concerns...

### Sentence starters with example endings

Starting...	... Ending
One limitation of past studies is a focus on...	... <b>the relationship between</b> students' social media use and their overall academic performance, rather than on close study of actual social media use.
Past studies have predominantly...	... been undertaken in the <b>context</b> of primary school teaching and learning, and particularly in relation to students using educational apps.
These studies are limited by...	... <b>research methods</b> that centre on the quantitative analysis of data.

### Example with surrounding text

Specifying a limitation

One limitation of past studies is a focus on the relationship between students' social media use and their overall academic performance, rather than on close study of how students use social

Explaining the impact of the limitation

media. This means that researchers currently know relatively little about the different ways in which students use social media during and/or for their studies. If tertiary educators and researchers want a better understanding of student behaviour and factors related to study success, then examining how successful students use social media is critical. Future research could...

### More examples:

- <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/being-critical/>
- You can learn more through reading journal articles, where researchers need to write about the limitations of past research before writing about their new study.