

Individual Research Paper Topics

Throughout the course, you have been learning more about management and organizational behavior. To enhance your in-class learnings, you will research a management topic of interest and write a 5-6 page paper (~1500 words). There will be a brief group activity where you will share your findings with your classmates. Below is a list of pre-approved topics. If there is another topic of interest, please seek approval from the professor. The objectives of this research paper are the following:

- Gain insights into real world management and leadership practices, issues, and trends.
- Learn from each other about important management topics.
- Gain experience in presenting findings to small groups.

Research Topics

1. Intergenerational Management

Each generation takes on different characteristics in the workplace. What differences do you see between generations and the management challenges and opportunities that are presented?

2. Management of Creativity and Innovation

Innovation is what drives success in many companies and in many industries. What are companies doing managerially in today's markets to gain an edge through innovation?

3. Mission, Organization Design and Culture

Select a number of different types of industries and companies, and identify their missions and differing organizational designs and cultures supportive of their respective missions.

4. Fun in the Workplace as a Management Strategy

Companies like Zappos are taking a completely different approach to workplace culture. They are making it totally crazy and fun. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of such an approach? What industries might such an approach work well in and where would it not work?

5. Emerging Technology Companies

Technology startup companies that gain venture funding sometimes face a major management and leadership challenge in transitioning from a small team of founders to a rapidly expanding growth company. What are lessons learned and management approaches being followed by successful emerging growth companies making this transition?

6. Acquiring and Managing Talent in Organizations

What approaches are companies today taking to find, develop, and retain a talented workforce?

7. Management of Quality

There have been a number of evolving approaches to the management of quality. What is quality and does it vary for service or products? What approaches and trends have we seen in the management of quality, and what do you think happened in a company as renowned as Toyota for quality where safety issues have badly hurt the company? What do you see as the future of the management of quality?

8. Managing Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

There have been major ethical breaches in corporations in recent years. What changes to you see in changes in management and organizational practices in response to these ethical breaches? What trends to you see for the future? What is the evolving nature of CSR? How is it being practiced today in companies? Is it just a U.S. phenomenon or do you see it impacting the way companies manage globally over the long-term future?

9. Impact of Social Media in Organizations

How is social media changing organizational culture and communications including the management of functions such as Sales & Marketing, and HR?

10. Management of Multicultural Organizations

What are companies doing today to improve the meshing together of employees of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds? What management and organizational trends do you see?

11. Leadership Styles

What are the contrasting leadership styles that we see in organizations today? What are the pros and cons of these varying styles, industry fit, and what trends do you see?

12. Building Trust, Loyalty, and Teamwork

What are companies doing today to increase trust, loyalty, and teamwork within their organizations?

13. Anticipating the Future

A critical component of success for any company is to anticipate the future and manage accordingly. Aside from hiring consultants that are expert in a given field, what are companies doing today to manage the generation of insights so that the organization embraces what the future has in store for them?

14. Globalization and Management Practices

How has globalization changed the way that companies are organizing and managing? What are the challenges? What are the trends?

15. Management of Organizational Functions

What differences do you see in the way today's organizations manage their various functions, e.g. Sales & Marketing, Engineering, Manufacturing/Operations, R&D, and Information Technology, etc?

16. Situational Leadership Models

In almost all things, "One size does not fit all," and the same is true for leadership. Explore the area of Situational Leadership Models and provide insights into how this is impacting the practice of leadership in today's organizations.

17. Management of Conflict

Inter-personal and Inter-organizational conflict is a significant source of issues within organizations. Research this general area and provide insights into approaches that managers are using to resolve and mitigate the effects of conflict.

18. Managing Security and Safety

In an era of increasing incidents of natural disasters and terrorists attacks, what are companies doing to manage the improvement of safety and security of their employees, to protect their assets, including the security of data.

19. Managing Work Life Balance

Many talented employees struggle to maintain a solid career track, but at the same time being able to maintain the right balance in their private lives. What are companies doing today to address the management of this issue? What do you see as the trends?

20. Managing the Corporate-Education Institution Interface

One of the most important sources of new talent for organizations is new university graduates. What are companies, government and military organizations, and/or the nonprofit sector doing today to improve the management of this interface?

21. 360 Degree Management...Up, Down, and Sideways

Management success often depends on how well one manages not only direct subordinates, but up the line and laterally as well. What are the different types of management approaches that are necessary for such a 360 degree management approach? What trends do you see and the different types of organizational settings where a 360 degree approach is more or less important?

22. Management of Projects and Rapid Change

A common complaint in many organizations revolves around change. What are managers and leaders doing in today's organizations to better manage change? Also, what is the evolving nature of the management of projects? What companies and industries does the project management concept represent an essential organizational tool in managing dynamic change? What impact has the development of project management as a profession had on organization and management practices?