

How to Write a Case Study

Thank you for your interest in submitting a case study on your experiences with the Perioperative Surgical Home. Follow these steps to write a winning case study outline, and then use the case study questions to help flesh out each section.

The target audiences for the case studies are anesthesiologists and health care administrators who want information on implementing a perioperative surgical home (PSH), or a component of the PSH, like a preoperative clinic.

Step 1: The opening section describes the rationale for the case study and information about your organization. Describe the problem you had identified, talk about specific pain points, the struggle to make things work, and what led to the decision to find a solution.

Step 2: Show the search for a solution. Explain the criteria for a solution or service and other solutions you considered but rejected.

Step 3: This is heart of the document. It describes the solution in detail, how it was implemented, and the impact on users, methodologies, and other factors that contributed to the overall project. Many case studies include sidebars, charts and graphs to highlight key points. Describe the solution you developed, including what it is, how it works, and why it was the right solution for the problem identified.

Step 4: In the final section, conclude the document by evaluating the solution's impact (usually positive), discuss lessons learned, and the next steps to be taken.

Beyond these steps of how to write a case study, keep in mind that most case studies range from 500 to 1000 words.

Case Study Questions

Tweak the following questions to fit your situation and help you flesh out your case study outline.

Questions about the Problem (step 1):

1. What challenges in your situation influenced you to look for a solution?
2. Did you have a previous solution that could no longer meet your needs? If so, how did your needs change?

Questions about the Search for a Solution (step 2):

1. What criteria did you have in mind for a solution?
2. How did you search for a solution to your problem?
3. What are some solutions you considered but rejected?

Questions about Your Solution (step 3):

1. Who was involved in making the decision to implement the solution? Did you involve a variety of people or were the decisions made unilaterally?
2. How hard was it to get team members to cooperate? Was there resistance?
3. Once you selected the solution, what was required to implement the solution?
4. Did your solution involve a different payment mechanism? How did you engage payers in the solution (if applicable)?

Questions about Results and Benefits (step 4):

1. What benefits have you experienced?
2. What specific results have you seen from implementing the solution?
3. What processes does your solution enhance? Does it save you time or money?
4. What patient care improvements have been realized? Has patient safety improved?
5. What changes in payments have been experienced, if any?
6. What are your next steps?

Submit your case study in a Word format to Celeste Kirschner, PSH Project Executive, at c.kirschner@asahq.org Case studies may be edited for clarity and standardization of format.