

Final Paper Format (APA)

- ABSTRACT
- TITLE PAGE
- INTRODUCTION /LITERATURE REVIEW
- METHODS
- RESULTS
- DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS
- REFERENCES
- APPENDIXES (if necessary)
- TABLES AND/OR FIGURES (if necessary)

METHODS/MATERIALS

- Clearly outlines in paragraph format the project design in the Experimental Design handout
- Clearly describes methods to be used in detail with materials integrated into methods
- Clearly describes how project data will be measured
 - including unit (ml, grams, etc.)
- Documents manufacturer and model and/or catalog number of all equipment and materials to be used
- Clearly outlines how data will be analyzed statistically and/or graphically
- THE POINT?
 - One could read the paper then recreate the experiments and obtain similar results (hopefully ...)

RESULTS

- OBJECTIVE summary of data collected in experiment.
 - state only what the data show
 - not an interpretation of the data
 - tables and graphs there to complement text, not to replace it
 - verbally describe any tables or figures included

RESULTS: Common Errors

- Sample errors ...
 - Listing off of data
 - must be written in continuous, narrative prose
 - Overreliance on graphs and tables
 - tables and graphs complement the text, not to replace it
 - Too much information
 - Cut to the “chase”
 - Likely the shortest part of paper ... it's OK.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

- EXPLAIN results, RELATE to others' theories and results, EVALUATE METHODOLOGY, SUGGEST a plan, DRAW conclusions
 - Brief Summary (1-2 paragraphs / intro)
 - “Discuss” results
 - Relate to other lit review findings
 - Evaluation of the Methodology (1-2 paragraphs / body)
 - What are the weaknesses?
 - Suggestions for Further Research (2-3 paragraphs / body)
 - What further research could be done?
 - Beyond “big picture” plan, what are the next experimental steps to refine and answer questions raised in original experiment?
 - Final Conclusions (1-2 paragraphs / conclusions)
 - What were the conclusions of the study?
 - “Wind power sucks ...”
 - Based on conclusions, what “big picture” action is planned?

DISCUSSION: Common Errors

- The main error ...
 - failing to provide a comprehensive discussion
 - merely repeats results
 - Need to actually discuss results by ...
 - » comparing to other findings
 - » relating to important models or theories from Lit. Review
- The most problematic error ...
 - lack of thought and imagination
 - Suggestions for further research?
 - Future steps and actions?
 - Lay out a coherent, long term plan
 - » Think BIG and LONG-TERM: *Imagine tomorrow*