

## Final Paper Format (APA)

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

## 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*

## Application

- Create a T-CHART
  - STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES
    - Identify points based on our discussion
- Read Paper
  - Identify content, format, and grammar issues
- Discuss Findings
  - Compare your analysis to others'
  - Identify gaps ...
    - Get on the "same page"
      - What is *so* about this paper?
      - What do I need to take away from this?