

Laboratory Report

- Use Templates provided
- Easiest to begin with methods section when writing your initial draft

Methods

- Participants or Subjects
 - Demographics
 - Special characteristics
- Apparatus and/or Materials
 - Any equipment
 - Any testing materials
- Procedures
 - Design
 - Operational definitions of variables
 - Participant recruitment
 - Assignment to conditions (numbers in each condition)
 - Instructions to participants
 - Actual events
 - Anything unusual that happened

Results

- How were the data handled?
- Descriptive statistics
 - (tables and/or charts might be helpful here)
- Analyses (and rationale for their use)
- Results of data analyses
 - (tables and/or charts might be helpful here)

Introduction

- Short description of general area of research (scientific significance—why is this an issue worth studying?)
- Review of previous relevant research
 - Description of previous related studies
 - Major findings and conclusions of those studies
 - How do they relate to your study?
- Logical progression (make case for this study)
- Hypotheses that were tested
- Short description of how planned procedure, design and data analysis were used to test hypotheses.

Discussion

- Summary of major findings
- Interpretation of each finding as related to each of your study's hypotheses
- Comparisons with results of other studies described in the Introduction
 - e.g. the data from the current study are consistent with (or not consistent with) the findings of...
- Overall conclusions about your study
- Limitations of your study
- Implications for future research

Abstract

- 150 words or fewer
- Summarize
 1. Study purpose
 2. Study methods
 3. Major findings
 4. Conclusions

Titles

- Titles summarize paper by describing major variables
- Running head and short title
- Key words
- Authors and affiliations

Citations/References

- Every time you use someone else's work in the text, you cite it (even if it is a paraphrase of their idea)
- Every citation must have a complete reference in the list at the end of the paper
- Use APA format for citations and references
- WHEN IN DOUBT, CITE IT—avoid plagiarism

Notes

- Avoid footnotes as much as possible
- Many articles have an “Author’s note” which usually
 - Lists the first author’s complete address
 - Acknowledges any support for the research (this study was supported by a grant from...)
 - Thanks the research assistants who did not qualify to be authors
 - Lists anywhere study data may have appeared previously (Preliminary findings were presented at the 5th annual meeting of the RSA...)

Finishing Touches

- Use spell check
- Correct grammatical errors
- Check your references
- Check your statistics, tables and graphs
- Maybe ask someone else to proof read
- Be proud of your work!