

The Results Section



The Basics

- “Are my hypotheses supported or not?”
- Restate your hypotheses and test them in the same order they appear in the introduction
- Describe the results in English and provide the statistical evidence
- If you have multiple hypotheses, break these into subsections
 - Preliminary analyses
 - Test of Hypothesis 1
 - Test of Hypothesis 2



Start _____

- Correlation analyses of continuous variables
- If you have several significant findings, present these in a Table





- Restate hypothesis
- Name of test you used
 - Ex. Bivariate correlation, independent samples t-test, One-way ANOVA
- Explain which variables were included in the test
 - Identify IV's and DV's; predictors and outcome
- Describe the results in English
- Report the coefficients and p-values in ()'s
 - Report p's as < .10, < .05 or n.s.
- State if this hypothesis was supported or not



Helpful Hints

- Refer to the _____ for formatting and structure
- Refer to _____ for amount of information to include
- Refer to _____ and your _____ for the specific information you need to include

The Discussion Section



The Basics

- “So what? Why is this research important?”
- The make-or-break section for selling your idea
- Mirror-image of the Introduction section
 - Start with specifics
 - End with “people in general”

Summarize Your

- In English (use the “Mom Test”)
 - No statistics allowed!
- Which hypotheses were supported and which ones weren’t?
- Mention surprise findings and interesting post hoc results here

Subsection

- Obviously small sample size, BUT...
- Alternative explanations for results
- Problems in interpretation
 - Construct validity issues
 - Internal validity issues
 - External validity issues
- Save unanswered questions for last so you can segue into the...



Subsection

- **Concrete** ideas for where to go from here
- Address your limitations and improve
- Expand on your findings with a follow-up
- Consider using a different research design
 - Correlational → Experimental for causality
 - Experimental → Survey for real world cases



Subsection

- “This is why you should care about my research”
- **FOCUS ON YOUR RESULTS HERE**
- Justify why your results are important
 - How does it expand on the current literature?
 - What void have you filled here?
 - What problem can this help solve?
- Take this subsection **VERY SERIOUSLY**
 - Should be the longest subsection



Subsection

- Summarize your findings in one sentence
- Talk about why the **TOPIC** is important
- Follow-up with how these findings relate to “people in general”
- Refer back to your opening paragraph
 - What new information do we have?
- Give the reader some closure
 - “...but more research needs to be done” is not an acceptable way to end
