



Title Page and

- Title page
 - Concise description of what you found (Single phrase or sentence)
 - Get the reader's attention
- _____ (120 words or less)
 - Paragraph-long description of *everything*

- "This is why I am doing what I am doing"
- Theoretical background
- Literature review
- Builds up to your hypotheses

- “How did I collect the data?”
- Participants
- Materials
 - Cronbach’s alphas
- Procedure

- “Are my hypotheses supported or not?”
- Descriptive statistics
 - ex. means, SD’s
- Type of analyses you conducted
- Significance of tests
- Summarize using figures and tables whenever possible



The Discussion Section

- “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”

Your Findings

- 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

- Alternative explanations for results
- Problems in interpretation
 - Construct validity issues: measurement
 - Internal validity issues: causality
 - External validity issues: generalizability
- 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 proposing 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

Reference List

- Alphabetical by first author
 - Gore, J.S., & Kurbel, K. (2005). Writing a paper. *Journal of Writing*, 3, 45-50.
- Must be cited in the manuscript
 - (Gore & Kurbel, 2005)

Format Issues

- See handout
- Pay attention to format of headings
- Page number and running head on every page (top, right-hand corner)
- References, tables, figures on separate pages
- Tables & Figures need a name and description
- Pay attention to elements that are *italicized*

Writing Issues

- Avoid first-person pronouns
 - Try not to use "I", "we", "our"
 - Refer to "the current study" rather than "I"
- Avoid colloquial phrasing
 - Keep a professional tone
- Avoid cryptic language
 - No jargon, say what you mean in English
- Avoid awkward and run-on sentences
 - Read your paper out loud
