

How to Write Your Research Paper

- I. Parts of your report
 - a. Title and cover
 - i. Create a title that states precisely what you are doing
 - ii. On your cover page, under the project title, please include your name and the date. Center title, name, and date, each on separate lines. Double space title page.
 - b. Abstract (write this last!)
 - i. Summary of your proposal including objectives, hypotheses, important background information, methods, results, and discussion.
 - ii. Abstract should be on a separate page from the rest of proposal, single spaced, don't indent paragraph. Center the word abstract at the top of the page.
 - c. Introduction:
 - i. Objectives: state the goals of your study. Usually, this will be to examine, expand on, investigate, explore, develop, or evaluate a set of data that you will collect.
 - ii. Background research: the background information you present provides the context from which your study is derived. It should be at least a page long, and you should summarize and reference 3-4 studies that are pertinent to your project. Do not quote; always use your own words.
 - iii. Conclude your introduction with your hypotheses and predictions. What did you expect to happen?
 - iv. Should be at least 4-6 paragraphs, and should include a minimum of 5 scientific papers.
 - d. Methods: refer back to METHODS handout (on 330 website)
 - i. How did you collect your data? What equipment did you use? When did you collect your data (systematically)? Present your ethogram as an appendix at the end of your paper. ***How did you analyze your data*** (NOTE: this was not a part of your first methods assignment)?
 - e. Results
 - i. Present your results clearly and concisely. Present figures, statistics, and general results here. **Do not interpret your results.**
 - f. Discussion
 - i. Present your results in the context of your introduction. How did they compare to past studies? Did you find what you predicted in your hypothesis? What are potential confounds that may have interfered with your results? What about implications for this work? Include future work recommendations.
 - ii. *Be sure you discuss each result you obtained* (each t-test and figure).
 - g. Literature cited
 - i. Be sure to cite all papers you have used to develop your proposal. All papers in the literature cited section must appear in the body of the paper. A minimum of 4 papers will be required for your background information. Use APA or AB format (see writing center website).

FINAL PAPER GRADING CRITERIA (20 points total):

Title & Cover 1 point

Abstract 1 point

Introduction 2 points

Methods* 3 points

(*Be sure to discuss what you ACTUALLY ended up doing. This should be written in the past tense. If your methodology changed from the first assignment, be sure to discuss why changes were made in your discussion section)

Results 5 points (must include at least one figure)

Discussion 4 points

Literature Cited 1 point (must include 5+ references)

Writing ability 3 points (includes grammar, spelling, correct tenses, complete sentences, and general clarity of writing)