Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

**Psychology**

**Personality/Music Project**

**Lab Report**

Our next task is to analyze the data we have collected. Once that is completed, it is time to write the lab report. The report is to be written in APA style. We will look at OWL at Purdue and follow the guidelines for writing the report.

**Title Page:**

Experimental reports in APA format have a title page. Title page formatting is as follows:

* A running head (left aligned) with the words Running head: followed by title IN ALL CAPS
* Page number in the upper right corner (right aligned)
* Vertically and horizontally centered paper title, followed by author and affiliation

**Abstract:**

The abstract gives a concise summary of the contents of the report.

* Abstracts should be brief (about 100 words)
* Abstracts should be self-contained and provide a complete picture of what the study is about
* Abstracts should be organized just like your experimental report—introduction, literature review, methods, results and discussion
* Abstracts should be written **last** during your drafting stage

**Introduction:**

The introduction in an experimental article should follow a general to specific pattern, where you first introduce the problem generally and then provide a short overview of your own study. The introduction includes three parts: opening statements, literature review (what does research say about the topic), and study overview.

**Opening statements:** Define the problem broadly in plain English and then lead into the literature review (this is the "general" part of the introduction).

**Literature review:** Discusses literature (previous research studies) relevant to your current study in a concise manner. You have two article summaries that can be used for this. If you would like to look at more information, my website has articles relevant to the topic. A minimum of two sources are to be used in your report.

**Study overview:** The literature review should lead directly into the last section of the introduction—your study overview. Your short overview should provide your hypotheses and briefly describe your method. The study overview functions as a transition to your methods section.

Bem (2003) provides the following rules of thumb for writing introductions.

* Open with a discussion about people and their behavior, not about psychologists and their research
* Write in plain English
* Take the time and space to introduce readers to your problem step-by-step; do not plunge them into the middle of the problem without an introduction

### Method:

Your method section provides a detailed overview of how you conducted your research. Because your study methods form a large part of your credibility as a researcher and writer, it is imperative that you be clear about what you did to gather information from participants in your study.

With your methods section, as with the sections above, you want to walk your readers through your study almost as if they were a participant. What happened first? What happened next?

The method section includes the following sub-sections.

**I. Participants:** Discuss who was took part in your experiment. Include major demographics that have an impact on the results of the experiment (i.e. if race is a factor, you should provide a breakdown by race). The accepted term for describing a person who participates in research studies is a participant not a subject. Include the number of participants.

**II. Materials:** Materials include scripts, surveys, or software used for data collection (not data analysis). Describe the survey that was used in the study.

**III. Procedure:** The procedure includes the step-by-step how of your experiment. The procedure should include a step-by-step listing in chronological order of what participants did during the experiment.

### Results:

The results section is where you present the results of your research-both narrated for the readers in plain English and accompanied by statistics. A graph or chart should be included here as well.

**Provide information on your data analysis:** Be sure to describe the analysis you did. If you are using a non-conventional analysis, you also need to provide justification for why you are doing so.

**Discussion:**

Your discussion section is where you talk about what your results mean. This is where you interpret your findings, evaluate your hypotheses or research questions, discuss unexpected results, and tie your findings to the previous literature (discussed first in your literature review). Your discussion section should move from specific to general.

Here are some tips for writing your discussion section.

* Begin by providing an interpretation of your results: what is it that you have learned from your research?
* Do not repeat what you have already said in your results—instead, focus on adding new information and broadening the perspective of your results to your reader.
* Discuss how your results compare to previous findings in the literature. If there are differences, discuss why you think these differences exist and what they could mean.
* Briefly consider your study's limitations, but do not dwell on its flaws.
* Consider also what new questions your study raises, what questions your study was not able to answer, and what avenues future research could take in this area.

### References:

References should be in standard APA format. Please see the WETAP handbook for specific instructions. Include references of the articles used in your introduction and the following sources used to create the survey:

**Grading:**

Sections of your report are assigned points as follows for a total of 100:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title Page 5  Abstract 10  Introduction 10  Methods 20  Results 10 | Discussion 20  References 10  APA formatting 10  GUMS 5 |

Due Dates: The following timeline is to be followed for completion of your report. Pre-final completion work (first three listed below) submitted on time will receive 5 turn-in points. Work turned in one day late will receive 2 turn in points. Work turned in two days late will receive 0 turn in points, but will be accepted for comment. The lab report deadline is the final date to turn in your completed lab report. Late papers will lose 50% credit if turned in late. No papers will be accepted after May 2. All draft work is to be submitted on a Google document and shared with Mrs. Bowman. Comments will be added to each section for improvement before final paper is to be submitted. Before submitting work, download as a Word document, make all formatting corrections as needed, and print before coming to class.

Draft A: Title Page, Introduction and Methods: April 7

Draft B: Results and Discussion: April 14

Draft C: Abstract and References: April 17

**Lab Report Deadline April 30**

A sample paper can be viewed on OWL at Purdue from this link. (Note that this report was much more extensive than what was done in class. Use this sample to reference formatting issues only and to get a general idea of what is to be presented in each section of your report: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/670/7/>