I. Goals

A. Aristotle: Science has two parts
   inquiry: observations, experiments
   argument: communication of the findings

Thus, reporting research is an integral part of the research process.
I. Goals

B. Convention in writing:
Each field has a convention, or a set way, of communicating ideas in the field. The convention
1) lets the reader know what to expect, and facilitates reading of the information.
2) lets the reader know where to look for specific kinds of information (e.g., who were the research participants).

B. Convention in writing:
Knowing this format will make it easier to:
• read psychological reports
• write papers for upper level psychology courses
• write your paper in this course
• write your Masters Thesis
• Write reports in your chosen profession.

II. Overall Organization
A. Structure of the research paper (hour-glass)
VIENNA, Austria (AP) — OPEC members agreed today on a plan to cut crude oil production by 2.104 million barrels a day and to maintain the lower levels of output for a full year beginning April 1, oil ministers said.

The group of 11 oil producing nations approved the plan which includes reductions by non-OPEC producers as well as those in the group in an effort to end a global oil glut and strengthen prices that had languished at a 12-year low as recently as December.

The agreement reached at an informal meeting of the members was unanimous, said Youcef Yousfi of Algeria, president of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"The compliance, I am sure, will be 100 percent. And there is a full determination of all countries to commit to this agreement," Yousfi said, before OPEC ministers began a formal meeting at the OPEC Secretariat. He said there were no last minute obstacles to the deal.

Under the agreement, OPEC nations will reduce oil output by 1.716 million barrels a day, Algerian officials said. Non-OPEC producers like Mexico, Norway, Russia and Oman will reduce production by an additional 388,000 barrels a day.
III. Stylistic Considerations

A. All empirical statements (statements of fact) should include a reference.

Example: males are more aggressive than females
- says who?
- what was the research?
- give a source

B. Writing should be clear, and concise.
- avoid flowery wording
  “A brilliant researcher, exhibiting sheer genius in his writing, Schmidt (1996)
- avoid personal references
  e.g., “I spent a lot of time looking for related research, and after many hours at the library, I found an article by . . .”

C. Avoid redundancies:
  e.g., “In his study, Schmidt (1996) found some interesting findings. In this study, Schmidt (1996) demonstrated . . .”
III. Stylistic Considerations

D. Use proper tense
- when discussing research done in the past, use the past tense.
e.g., Schmidt (1996) found
- when discussing proposed research, use the future or future perfect tense.
e.g., The participants will be told . . .

E. Avoid “biased” or “sexist language”
e.g., The participant came into the experiment. He then . . .

This suggests that the participants were male!

D. Avoid “sexist language”
Reasons to avoid biased language
- imprecise meaning
- often involves evaluations/ stereotypes
- distracts the reader from the content

Example: housewife as an occupation
D. Avoid “sexist language”

How to avoid sexist language
- Change pronouns to plural form
e.g., The participants came into the experiment. They then . . .
- Use parallel terms: male/ female
  husband/wife
  boy/girl
  man/woman

E. Use proper citation form


Cite as follows:
- Benton, Owens, and Parker (1994)
- (Benton, Owens, & Parker, 1994)
- Second citation: Benton et al. (1994)

IV. Content of the Major Sections

Overview:
- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Method
- Results
- Discussion
- References
- Figures/Tables
Title page

Title:
• State, in a short phrase, the major thesis of the paper.
• Include the important independent and dependent variables
• Get the readers attention

Page Layout

Running Head: THE TITLE YOU WANT ACROSS THE TOP

The Actual Title of Your Paper
Your Name
Middle Tennessee State University

Examples of good titles

The trouble with levels: A reexamination of Craik and Lockhart’s framework for memory research.
Since the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, has anyone beaten you up? Improving the accuracy of retrospective reports with landmark events.
Abstract

Like a short, stand-alone, research report.
Often published separately
Should provide an overall summary
  purpose, methods, and results
Not an introduction!
Printed first, written last!

Page Layout

THE TITLE YOU WANT ACROSS THE TOP  2

Abstract
An experiment is proposed to investigate the role of this or that.

Introduction

Most important part for engaging the reader.
Tell why this research is worth reporting,
putting the research into appropriate context.
Includes:
  literature review
  hypotheses
  how the hypothesis will be evaluated
The Title of Your Paper

Start your literature review and a statement of your hypothesis.

Method

Tell the reader what you did (or plan to do) in sufficient detail so that they could conduct your research.
- like a recipe in a cookbook
- step by step instructions

Materials and Design

Twenty-four cartoons were selected from Larson (1985; 1987; 1988). Three versions of each cartoon were prepared: original, literal, and weird.

Procedure

Each student was seated in a small, quiet room approximately 2 meters from a screen. The pickup of a CIC Heart Speedometer was attached to the student’s left earlobe.
Method (subsections)

Participants
How many, who they are, how they were selected/recruited.

Apparatus
Describe any special equipment

Materials
Describe any tests, written instructions, or other verbal materials

Procedure
Include a step-by-step description of how the research was conducted.

Results
Simply state the outcome of the research.
How were the data analyzed?
Include summary and inferential statistics.
Example: “The experimental group took longer to complete the task ($M = 32.5$ sec) than the control group ($M = 30.5$ sec), $t(29) = 1.95$.”

Results (correlational)
The raw scores from the above sample were subjected to analysis by Pearson product-moment correlational analysis (see Table 1).
The results show that the correlation between the hand-size of the male and hip-size of the respective female is $+0.44$ and is a significant positive correlation ($t = 2.29, df = 22, p < .05$).

Prytula, 1975, Perceptual and Motor Skills.
and several measures of certain recall and recall order were analyzed as a function of cartoon type and experimental design.

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Discussion

The results presented above demonstrated that humorous cartoons were better remembered than word and literal cartoons, providing additional support for the efficacy of humor as a memory aid.

Furthermore, the results provide an important replication of the conditions leading the humor

Discussion

What do the results mean?

• Return to the original hypothesis
• Discuss the implications (earlier research)
• Discuss shortcomings (future research?)
• Return to the big picture

References

List all papers cited (and only papers cited) in alphabetical order. Double space throughout.

References

References

Edited Books/Books

Tables
Table 1
Heart Rate Components (beats/min) as a Function of Humor Rating from Experiment 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cartoon Version</th>
<th>Acceleratory Component</th>
<th>Secondary Deceleratory Component</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
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Figures
(caption on a separate page)