

BSc Mental Health
ECAP4006: Research Methods: An Introduction

Report 1 guidance

Both research report assessments must adhere to APA style of research report structure and APA 7th ed referencing style.

Title

Short title that is placed on a single page at the beginning of the report (there should be nothing other than the title on this page) – e.g., Exploring the Word Length Effect

Introduction

Starting on page 2, start to introduce the literature/research that you have read that gives an overall idea of the topic you are exploring in the study – i.e., the word length effect.

There are a number of articles available on Moodle to get you started on this. Aim to cover both the word length effect and information relating to the phonological loop in this section. Start with the broadest information (defining the WLE, introduction to the concept of the phonological loop, etc) and then hone in to the specific research studies that have explored the word length effect.

At the end of this section, you should offer a specific hypothesis (a statement that will be tested through the calculation of the Wilcoxon test). E.g., it is hypothesised that significantly more short words will be remembered than long words (remember that this **must** be based upon the literature you have included up until this point).

Method

Participants

The number of participants that took part in the study (plus any information about how many were males/females if applicable). Range of ages of participants and the mean and SD of age.

Demographic information of participants for your report:

Thirty participants in total; 13 males, 13 females and four non-binary

Range of ages 19-63. $M = 27.93$, $SD = 11.24$

All participants spoke English as their first language.

Design

The design = within-subjects; all participants recalled both long and short words.

The independent variable was the length of the words (long and short) and the dependent variable was the number of words correctly recalled.

The test used to analyse data will be the Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test.

Materials

A PowerPoint presentation was created to display the words to participants.

The order of the presentation of information for this study has been replicated in a PowerPoint file that can be found on Moodle. You should use this file as well as the questions/information below to write up, in as much detail as possible, how the task collected data on recall. For guidance, every participant that took part in the study saw the long words first and the short words second.

- How many words were there? (long and short)
- How long were the words displayed for? (1 second – all words displayed individually)
- Was there any delay in the presentation of each word? (a blank screen – 1 second)
- Font / size / colour of the font?
- Background colour of the slide?
- How long were participants given to recall the words (first the long and then the short)? – 90 seconds per recall attempt.

Procedure

An opportunity sample of undergraduate students was used and presumptive consent was gained.

First shown the long words on the computer screen. 90 second recall time.

Second, short words were displayed followed by another 90 second recall time.

Participants were thanked for their participation and provided with the opportunity to ask questions. A debrief form was provided outlining the aims of the study.

Results

A Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test was conducted to determine whether participants are better able to recall short or long words. The value of W was calculated as the smaller of W^+ and W^- and therefore W was equal to _____. The critical value of W as indicated by the critical values table for _____ participants was _____, and so it has been observed that there is a significant difference in the recall of short and long words. The median scores indicate that significantly more short words were remembered than long words (median = _____ and _____, respectively).

References

Start your reference list on a brand-new page.

Remember that your references must be in APA 7th ed style and in alphabetical order.

Do not bullet point or number references.

Appendices

To be included (all on Moodle)

- Consent form
- Debrief form
- List of words
- Standardised procedures