



Discussion Writing - Workshop

Independent study
SHSS6070
8th of March

DISCUSSION

- The goal of the discussion section is to interpret your findings and place them in the broader context of the literature in the area.
- A discussion section is like the reverse of the introduction, in that you begin with the specifics and work toward the more general (*funnel out*).

Some points to consider:

- Begin with a brief restatement of your main findings (using words, not numbers).
- Did they support the hypothesis or not?
- If not, why not, do you think? Were there any surprising or interesting findings?

Relate to previous research

- How do your findings tie into the existing literature on the topic, or extend previous research?
- What do the results say about the broader behavior under investigation?
- Bring back some of the literature you discussed in the Introduction / literature review, and show how your results fit in (or don't fit in, as the case may be).

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- If you have surprising findings, you might discuss other theories that can help to explain the findings.
 - Begin with the assumption that your results are valid, and explain why they might differ from others in the literature.

Link to Theory:

- What are the theoretical and practical implications of your findings?

Practical Implications:

- How do these results relate to larger issues of human thoughts, feelings, and behavior?
- Give your readers “the big picture.” Try to answer the question, “So what?”

- What are the strengths and limitations of the study?
- If your findings differ from those of other researchers, or if you did not get statistically significant results, don't spend pages and pages detailing what might have gone wrong with your study, but do provide one or two suggestions.
- What are the strengths of your study? Why did you do the study in the first place?

Future Research Directions:

- What additional questions were generated from this study?
- What further research should be conducted on the topic?
- What gaps are there in the current body of research?

Why should the new study be conducted?

- Whenever you present an idea for a future research study, be sure to explain *why* you think that particular study should be conducted.
- What new knowledge would be gained from it? Don't just say, "I think it would be interesting to re-run the study on a different college campus" or "It would be better to run the study again with more participants."
- **Really put some thought into what extensions of the research might be interesting/informative, and why.**

Summary paragraph:

- Final paragraph:
- Be sure to sum up your study with a final concluding statement.
- Don't just trail off with an idea for a future study.
- End on a positive note by reminding your reader why your study was important and what it added to the literature.

Tasks:

- Details provided during the lecture...