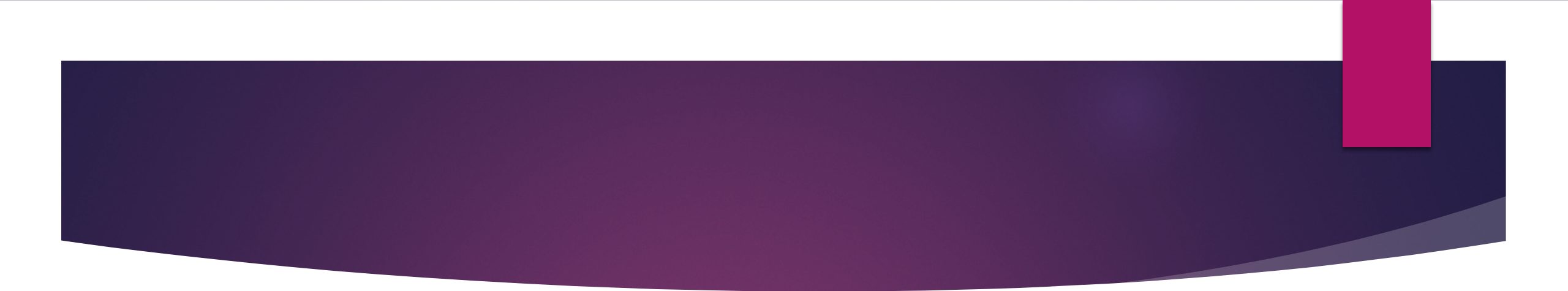
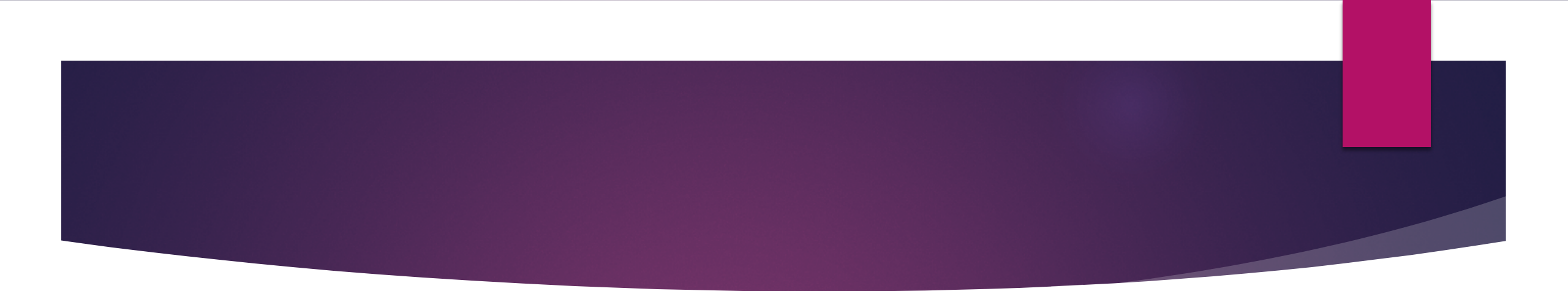


Dissertation Advice - Discussion

Key things you will need in a discussion.

- ▶ Remind the reader of the aims of the study (briefly).
- ▶ Re-state the findings in plain English (do not state the statistics) and link to your research hypotheses.
- ▶ Implications – what do your findings actually mean in the wider world.
- ▶ Limitations
- ▶ Future research
- ▶ Conclusion.

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- ▶ Step 1: Remind your reader very briefly of what the study was about. Avoid repetition, keep it short.
 - ▶ Step 2: Give a brief summary of your first key finding, but do not simply repeat what you wrote in Chapter 3. How does your finding compare to the findings of others? Remember you have discussed these (also those that go against your hypotheses) in Chapter 1.
 - ▶ Step 3: Discuss whether you have found new evidence or more evidence to support a particular notion. Discuss the implications of these findings. (For example, is it fair to conclude based on your evidence that working women with children are more prone to stress than working women without children?). If your findings do not support past research, say so. Indicate why you think this might be. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each hypothesis/research question.

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- ▶ Step 4: Discuss the limitations of your study. This is essential. There is no such thing as 'the perfect study'! However, this must be a constructive discussion acknowledging the limitations of an undergraduate study: do not destroy everything you have tried to do but be honest about what could have been done better in an ideal world. What would you do differently if you were to run the study again? What problems did you face (e.g. recruitment, biased samples, poor measures) and how could these have been overcome?
 - ▶ Step 5: Make suggestions of how your study could be taken one step further in future research. In other words, based on your findings, what might the next research question be? Finally, you must summarise your project, and report the key implications of your study in terms of the psychological literature and its application to the real world.