

Writing-up Results

Results must be presented as simply, concisely, and clearly as possible. It may be helpful to think of the results section as including the following key sub-sections: treatment/preparation of the data, descriptive statistics, inferential statistics.

Where appropriate, in the descriptive and/or inferential statistics sections, figures and tables can be used to display large amounts of information.

Treatment/Preparation of the data:

- The results section should always start with an explanation of the treatment and preparation of the data. A summary of what was done with the raw data is required for the reader to understand how it was subsequently used in the analyses.

Descriptive statistics:

- This can include the mean, mode, range and standard deviation of participant scores. These can be presented in tables (with an appropriate title and in APA format) and should briefly summarise the pattern of the data. Longer explanation can be given if not using a table or graph. Descriptive statistics for both the IV and DV should be included where possible.

Inferential statistics:

- These should include; the statistical test that was carried out (in some cases a justification can be included, for example with the use of a non-parametric test) plus all the relevant information taken from the SPSS output*. In most cases this will include a critical value of the test, degrees of freedom and significance level (whether the test is significant or non-significant – **never use the term insignificant**). Please ensure you present the statistics correctly and report the correct values from the SPSS output - ensure letters are in italics - e.g., $F(2, 56) = 6.78, p < 0.05$. The arrow should be pointing in the correct direction to denote whether the results are significant or not.
- After presenting the inferential statistics, ensure you state whether the results are significant or not (do not just present the values without any interpretation). State the outcomes of the test in terms of how this relates to your hypothesis, i.e., accept or reject.

** Raw SPSS outputs must be included in your appendices*

Figures and tables:

- These should only be used if they achieve some purpose within your results section. If your descriptives, for example, are better presented in a table then use one; but don't then also include a paragraph explaining the descriptives, just provide a brief account of the pattern of the data. Figures and tables must also be correctly labelled according to APA style (see referencing document or APA manual for more information). **DO NOT** copy and paste tables/figures from SPSS in to the results section – you must create your own.