



Reporting Results

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Results Section

Present a synopsis of your results and a thematic explanation of the key findings.

Or

Present and explain each finding and then move on to the next. End with an overall synopsis.

Use either approach but do not mix them

Results Section

- Introductory context for understanding the results by restating the research problems and research design.
- Systematic presentation and description of the information /data collected referencing key data presented in tables, graphs and figures.
- Inclusion of appropriately referenced tables, figures and graphs.
- Presentation of statistical analysis and significance.
- Thematic or ordered presentation and description of the data, starting with that you deem most important.
- Synthesis of key findings that specifically and directly relate to your research question.

Results Section

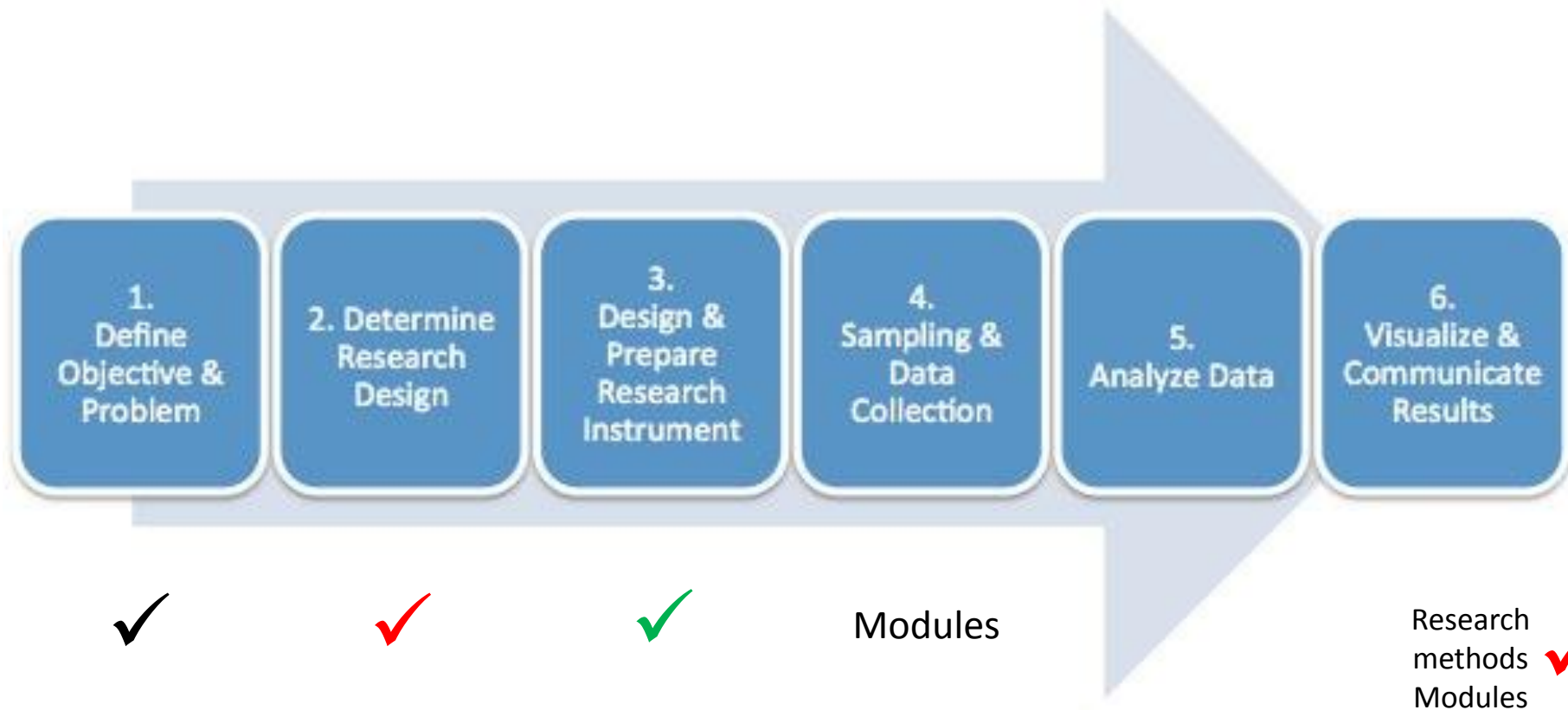
Try to Avoid

- Discussing or interpreting results
- Reporting background information to explain the data
- Ignoring negative results
- Including raw or intermediary data
- Confusing tables, figures or graphs.
- Unlabelled or referenced tables, figures or graphs.
- Starting the section with tables, figures or graphs.

Try to

- Be factual and concise
- Refer to all tables, figures or graphs.
- Group finding in themes and order of importance.

Conducting Research



Data Collection

- Ethical Approval
- Securing participants / environment
- Practicing protocols
- Collecting the information
- Analysing the data
- Interpreting the data
- Reporting the data
- Publishing the data

Research methods

The results section

- Presenting Data
- Descriptive analysis and presentation
- Inferential analysis and presentation

Use the past tense when referring to your results. Reference to findings should always be described as having already happened because the method of gathering data has been completed.

Present a synopsis of the results followed by an explanation of key findings.

You may have noticed an unusual correlation between two variables during the analysis of your findings. It is correct to point this out in the results section.

However, speculating as to why this correlation exists, and offering a hypothesis about what may be happening, belongs in the discussion section of your paper.

Present a result and then explain it, before presenting the next result then explaining it, and so on, then end with an overall synopsis

This is more common in longer papers because it helps the reader to better understand each finding.

This is also the preferred approach if you have multiple results of equal significance.

In this approach, it is helpful to provide a brief conclusion that ties each of the findings together and provides a narrative bridge to the discussion section of the your paper

Thematic approach

Just as the literature review should be arranged under conceptual categories rather than systematically describing each source, organize your findings under key themes related to addressing the research problem.

An Introductory context for understanding the results by restating the research problem underpinning your study.

This is useful in orientating the reader's focus back to the research after reading about the methods of data gathering and analysis.

Inclusion of non-textual elements, such as, figures, charts, photos, maps, tables, etc. to further illustrate key findings, if appropriate.

Rather than relying entirely on descriptive text, consider the ways your findings can be presented visually. This is a helpful way of condensing a lot of data into one place that can then be referred to in the text.

Consider using appendices if there is a lot of non-textual elements.

A systematic description of your results, highlighting for the reader observations that are most relevant to the topic under investigation

- Remember that not all results that emerge from the methodology used to gather information may be related to answering the question.
- Do not confuse observations with interpretations;

observations in this context refers to highlighting important findings you discovered through a process of reviewing prior literature and gathering data.

Interpretation is how you explain and use the information that you have collected

The length of your results section is guided by the amount and types of data to be reported

Focus only on findings that are important and related to addressing the research problem.

It is not uncommon to have unanticipated results that are not relevant to answering the research question, and this is not to say that you don't acknowledge tangential findings, but spending time describing them only clutters your overall results section.

A short paragraph that concludes the results section by synthesizing the key findings of the study

Highlight the most important findings you want readers to remember as they transition into the discussion section.

This is particularly important if, for example, there are many results to report, the findings are complicated or unanticipated, or they are impactful or actionable in some way [i.e., able to be acted upon in a feasible way applied to practice].

Things to Avoid

1. Discussing or interpreting your results
2. Reporting background information
3. Ignoring negative results
4. Including raw data
5. Presenting data more than once
6. Confusing figures with tables

Tables & Figures

- Only include those needed
- Figures useful for presenting percentage data, interactions and summaries of related findings.

Examples from the literature

- Select a study from those provided and make notes on the following:
 - How are results presented?
 - What order?
 - What tables and figures are used?
 - Questions you have about the results section

Note: Read the abstract first to have an idea about what they did.

Data Analysis

- Descriptive statistics and Standard scores
- Relationships, variance (effect size) and regression.
- Multiple relationships
- Differences

Reporting Statistical Data

- Information on how sample size calculated.
- Complications that happened (e.g., missing data, attrition, non-response).
- Select minimally sufficient analysis.
- Report actual p values; confidence intervals even better.
- Control multiple comparisons through techniques such as Bonferroni.
- Always report variability using standard deviation
- Report data at the level (e.g., how many decimal places) that are appropriate for scientific relevance.

Reporting Qualitative Data

- Similar to general suggestions for Quantitative Data
- Report results from data analysis as themes or conclusions.
- Each theme or sub-theme should be supported by data:
 - Interviews
 - Observations
 - Material collection
- Present data from all sources stated in data analysis (e.g., triangulation).