

BSc Mental Health
ECAP4006: Research Methods: An Introduction

Report 2 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., Testing the Existence of the Stroop Effect.

Abstract

Starting on page 2, the abstract is a summary of the research report in no more than 150 words. The abstract should contain the key/important information from each of the four main sections: introduction (background research), method, results (main findings) and discussion.

Introduction

Starting on page 3, 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 Stroop effect.

There are several articles available on Moodle to get you started on this. The underlying cognitive process is that of attention and so it is likely that you will want to introduce attention before talking about the specifics of the Stroop effect (and the Stroop task).

At the end of this section, you should offer a specific hypothesis (a statement that will be tested through the paired samples t-test analysis). E.g., it is hypothesised that participants will recall the words in the congruent condition significantly quicker than the incongruent condition (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; 18 males and 12 females

Range of ages 21-49. $M = 25.06$, $SD = 8.11$

All participants were recorded as having no trouble viewing colour.

Design

The design = within-subjects; all participants recalled the words in the congruent condition and the incongruent condition.

The independent variable was the condition of the Stroop Task (congruent and incongruent) and the dependent variable was the time taken to state all 15 word colours correctly.

The test used to analyse data will be the paired samples t-test.

Materials

Consider the following in completing this section and write the materials section overall in paragraph format. For guidance, the conditions of the task were counterbalanced so half of the participants responded to the congruent condition first and then the incongruent, whereas the other half responded to the incongruent condition first followed by the congruent.

- What instructions were given to participants?
- How many words were there for each condition?
- How were the words displayed? (All on one A4 sheet of paper for each condition)
- Font / size of each word?

Procedure

An opportunity sample of undergraduate students were recruited and informed consent was gained.

Participants took part in this study in a laboratory setting and were provided with information on the computer screen (see standardised instructions document on Moodle). Depending on order of presentation, participants either turned the congruent or incongruent sheet overall and began to state the colour that the word was written in whilst the researcher timed. After that, the participants turned over the sheet containing the word for the other conditions and, again, stated the colour that the word was written in.

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 paired samples t-test was conducted to explore the existence of the Stroop effect; whether participants are better able to recall words in a congruent or incongruent condition.

The mean scores and SD's must be reported for each condition, and the t-test formula must be included in the correct format (see example results sections on Moodle).

Relate findings to hypothesis (is the experimental hypothesis supported or must the null hypothesis be accepted?)

Discussion

Reiterate main findings. How do these findings relate to previous research findings (the literature/references you have included in your introduction to this report?) Why do you think the findings were as they were? What other factors could be discussed in relation to this topic? Are there any areas that could be expanded upon for future research? Discuss, critique and support your claims with literature to make this section stronger.

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
- Raw data
- SPSS output