

Generic Feedback

SHSS 5061 Research Methods

002 (50%) Research Report

10 common mistakes in this assignment

- 1. READ THE ASSIGNMENT BRIEF
 - It tells you the structure and most importantly the weighting of grades
 - Do not spend 1700 words on your introduction as its only worth 20%!
- Helpful hints document
- SPSS Learning to Love Statistics workbook

2. Abstract

- The abstract is a written account of the project that has taken place
- It should be written in the **PAST TENSE**
- It should overview the
 - Participants (n=?, MEAN +/- SD age, ht, wt etc)
 - Protocol (what did you measure!)
 - Results (MEAN +/- SD; significant or non-significant, p=?)
 - Conclusions (what can we take from this study)
- This is not a future tense introduction to the problem!

3. Introduction

- Start GENERAL, move to SPECIFIC
- **This is NOT a literature review – keep it focused!**
- The research included here should inform
 - AIM
 - HYPOTHESES
 - METHOD
- The last sentence in this section should SPELL OUT the Aim and Hypotheses that will be examined

4. METHOD

- 4 sections
 - Participants (NUMBER? How recruited? Consent? Ethics? Inclusion/exclusion)
 - Design (short statement)
 - Protocol (exactly what did you do? Reproducible? Figures?)
 - Data analysis (how will you analyse your data to ANSWER YOUR AIM!)
- NOT APPARATUS – This is not GCSE science/BTEC!
- If you did not use the 4 sections requested you failed this section!
- SPSS is software – not a test – if you discussed SPSS as a test you would fail this section.
 - “SPSS will be used to examine if a difference exists between.....”

5. RESULTS

- **KILL ME NOW**

- Statement of results at the **START** that **MUST** answer your **AIMS!**
 - Use template given in SPSS survival guide
- Do NOT **'MINE'** your data
- Do **NOT EVER** screen shot or screen dump SPSS output tables
 - It is YOUR job to interpret them, not mine
- Do **NOT EVER, EVER** present individual participant data (tables or graphs)
- Do **NOT EVER, EVER, EVER** refer to NON-SIGN findings as SIGN
 - E.g. “ there was no significant difference ($P=0.98$) however Eta squared was massive so I'm going pretend there was a difference and talk about that....”
 - E.g. “ the pearson correlation was non significant however a slightly positive relationship was observed.....”
- **MISREPRESENTATION**

6. Discussion

- Start with simple statement of findings
- Discuss possible reasons for these findings – bringing in existing research
 - “ We found this. These guys over here also found this. They proposed that the reason was because of X. We agree that could also be an explanation here”
- Do not waste time lamenting the results you DIDN'T find.
 - “ I didn't have a significant difference. Man, I'm p****ed about that, so I'm just going to chat about why I should have found a significant difference”
- Then present limitations of the study
 - Numbers, design, protocol etc

7. Conclusion

- Present the relevance of YOUR study
 - Not the literature review!
- Do not overreach here –
 - ‘Basically – the results from this study will tell you EVERYTHING you EVER wanted to KNOW about this area’
 - Non-sign v sign
 - ‘this shows that this is a reliable test.....even though I didn’t measure reliability’

8. Reference list

- **KILL ME AGAIN**

- If you cannot be ARSED to learn to reference, please don't expect me to be ARSED to pass your work, give you a degree, get you a license to practice and write you a job reference!
- **Its simple: LEARN IT.**
- You will FAIL every assignment from here on in without it
- No excuses. Own it.

9. Academic writing

- Yep, this is **STILL a THING**.
- Assignment was only 2000 words
- Don't be wasteful with your word count
- CONCISE
- BLUNT
- Do NOT WAFFLE !

10. Time management

- This is my interpretation of your situation (AND I may be wrong here....)
- Your poor time management may have meant that you were stuck for subjects and access to equipment
- This can be mentioned in the limitations section BUT
- At no point should you BLAME someone else
 - “participants were not available.....*even though I gave them, like, 23 hours notice.....*
 - “equipment was restricted... under lock and key..... *but available 20 hours per week since September....*
- Proof reading? Tutorials?
- Independent, clinically autonomous practitioner should be able to manage their time.... **End of.**

Overall Results for Assessment 002 Research Report

- Mean grade $43 \pm 20\%$
- Min <30
- Max >70

- Pass rate 62%

- Before the grades are released – look back over your own assignment
- What grade would you give it now?
- Did you follow the requirements of the assignment brief?