**Results Section**

The results section is where you present the results of your research-both narrated for the readers in plain English and accompanied by statistics.

**Note:**Depending on the requirements or the projected length of your paper, sometimes the results are combined with the discussion section.

**Organizing Results**

Continue with your story in the results section. How do your results fit with the overall story you are telling? What results are the most compelling? You want to begin your discussion by reminding your readers once again what your hypotheses were and what your overall story is. Then provide each result as it relates to that story. The most important results should go first.

**Preliminary discussion:**Sometimes it is necessary to provide a preliminary discussion in your results section about your participant groups. In order to convince your readers that your results are meaningful, you must first demonstrate that the conditions of the study were met. For example, if you randomly assigned subjects into groups, are these two groups comparable? You can't discuss the differences in the two groups until you establish that the two groups can be compared.

**Provide information on your data analysis:** Be sure to describe the analysis you did. If you are using a non-conventional analysis, you also need to provide justification for why you are doing so.

Presenting Results: Bem (2006) recommends the following pattern for presenting findings:

* Remind readers of the conceptual hypotheses or questions you are asking
* Remind readers of behaviors measured or operations performed
* Provide the answer/result in plain English
* Provide the statistic that supports your plain English answer
* Elaborate or qualify the overall conclusion if necessary

Writers new to psychology and writing with statistics often dump numbers at their readers without providing a clear narration of what those numbers mean. Please see our Writing With Statistics handout for more information on how to write with statistics.