Handout 1B: Data Interpretation Writing Structure Guide

Introduction Paragraph

Start by giving a clear overview of the graph. Use varied words while ensuring that you clearly explain the important information.

e.g., "The graph shows how three different pharmaceutical treatments performed over six months."

Next, describe the main trends seen in the graph. You can mention one or two trends here and explain the second trend in the conclusion.

e.g., "Overall, Treatment A resulted in a significant improvement in patient recovery, while Treatments B and C had only small effects."

Body Paragraphs

Paragraph 1: Main Trend

Begin this paragraph by discussing the **first significant trend without using numbers.** For example, "The most noticeable trend is the significant increase in recovery rates for patients receiving Treatment A."

Then, **give a specific example with numbers**. You might say, "For instance, the recovery rate for Treatment A increased from 65% to 85% during the study period."

You **can follow this with another example**: "This means there is a 20-percentage point increase, showing Treatment A as the best option."

Paragraph 2: Secondary Trend

Start this paragraph by discussing the **second trend**. For example, "In comparison, Treatments B and C showed slight improvements in patient recovery rates."

Next, **provide an example with numbers**. You could say, "Treatment B improved patient recovery from 55% to 60%, which is only a 5-percentage point increase."

You might want to add, "Similarly, Treatment C's recovery rate went from 50% to 54%, indicating very little improvement."

Concluding Paragraph

Conclude the analysis by summarizing the main trends observed in the graph. **Use different words (paraphrase)** to explain these ideas. For example, “To sum up, Treatment A was the most effective option, significantly improving recovery rates, while Treatments B and C had limited benefits.”

Avoid using numbers in the conclusion. Instead, use words like "the majority" or "a minority" to give information. For example, “Most patients saw substantial improvement with Treatment A, while only a few experienced noticeable benefits from the other treatments.”

The DON'Ts

- Don’t describe the X and Y axes of the graph. Focus on sharing important information from the data.

- Don’t explain everything in the graph. Concentrate on the most important points and trends.

- Don’t reference elements like “the line” or “the bar.” Instead, describe the ideas that the data represent: “The number of patients achieving good outcomes increased significantly after Treatment A.”

- Avoid shorthand descriptions. Always write complete sentences with clear data points. For example, say, “The number of patients with side effects from Treatment B was concerning,” rather than using vague language.

- Don’t include personal opinions or phrases such as “I feel,” “as written,” or “as seen.”

- Do not start sentences with conjunctions like “But,” “So,” “Also,” “And,” “For,” “Since,” “Because,” or “Although.”

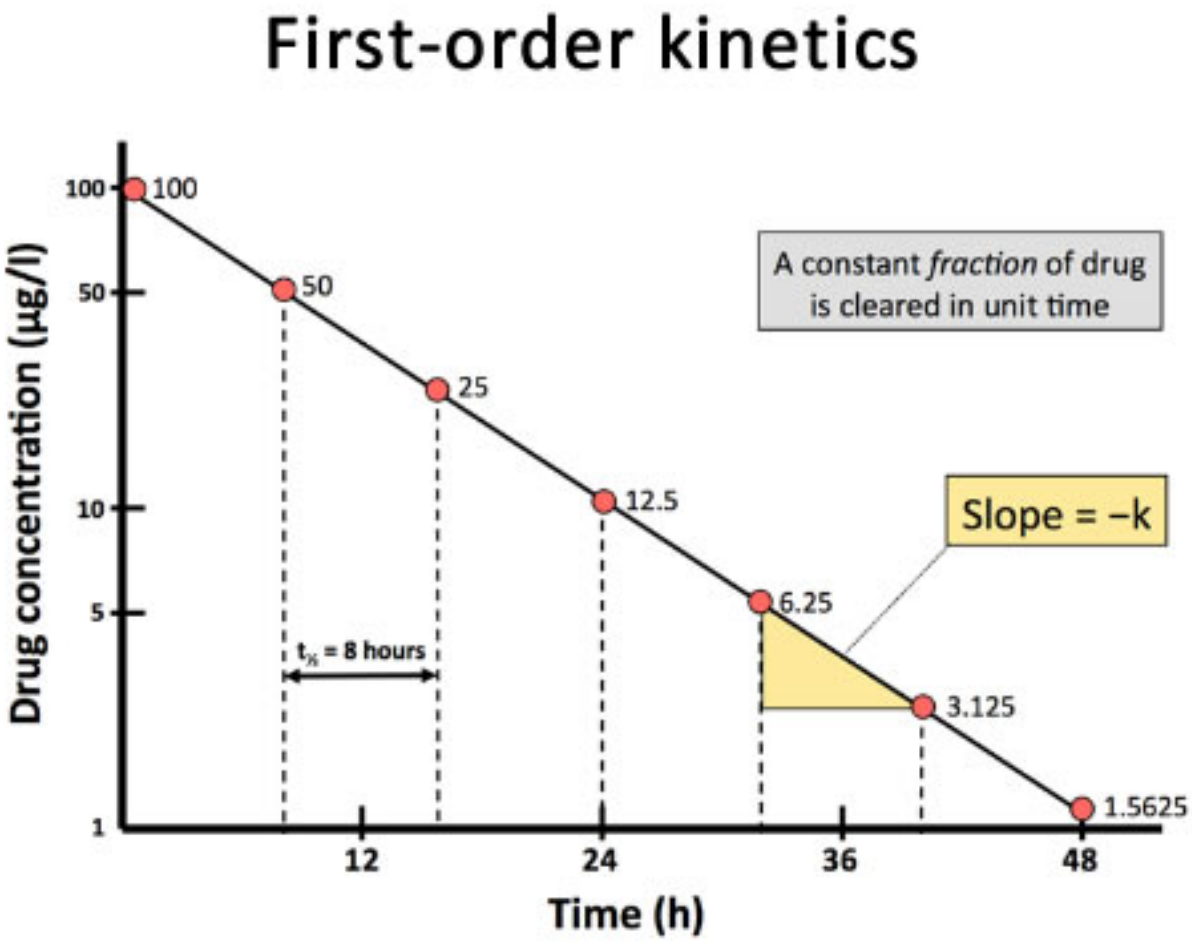
Word Length Considerations

Aim for about 150 words in total. Mix short sentences (around 6-10 words) with longer ones (12-18 words), aiming for an average length of about 12-13 words per sentence. Use a variety of sentence structures, keeping shorter sentences for statements that do not include numbers

PRACTICE

Follow the tasks in each graph. The writing must include:

- Introduction paragraph (overview + key trends)
- Two body paragraphs (main and secondary trends)
- Concluding paragraph (summary using paraphrased terms and non-numerical expressions)



Source: Pharmacokinetics v (no date).

Practice 1 Tasks

1. Review the following data interpretation information.
2. Label the different parts as follows:

   • Overview • Main Trend

   • Secondary Trend • Overall Trend Analysis

3. Next, identify the introduction, body, and conclusion paragraphs.
4. Finally, highlight the trend vocabulary utilized in the data article.

◆ Line Graph – First-order Kinetics

_____In comparison, the decline became less dramatic later in the period. Between 36 and 48 hours, the concentration dropped from 6.25 µg/l to only 1.56 µg/l. Although the amount lost decreased, the percentage remained constant, indicating the nature of first-order elimination.

_____The graph illustrates how the concentration of a drug in the bloodstream decreases over time, following first-order kinetics. It demonstrates a steady reduction in the amount of drug, with the same fraction cleared at regular intervals. Overall, there is a consistent decline in concentration as time progresses.

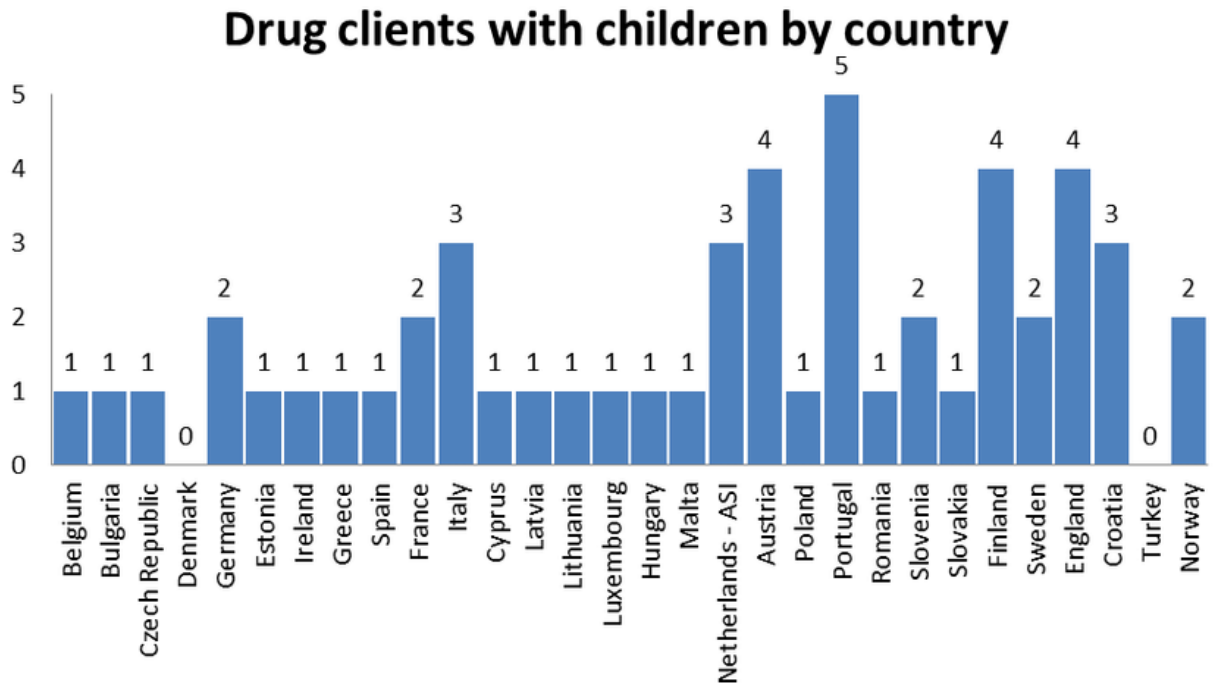
_____The most significant trend is the rapid drop in drug levels during the early hours after administration. Initially, the concentration was 100 µg/l, and it decreased by half every 8 hours. For example, it dropped to 50 µg/l at 8 hours and then to 25 µg/l by 16 hours. This pattern continued throughout the 48 hours.

_____To sum up, the data reveal that most of the drug is eliminated within the first 24 hours, with only a small portion remaining after that. This consistent pattern shows how the body clears a stable fraction of the drug over time.

** "µg/L" stands for "micrograms per liter," a unit measuring the mass of a substance in one liter of water*

Practice 2 Tasks

1. Read the data from the bar graph carefully about Drug Clients with Children by Country.
2. Write your data interpretation. Your writing must include
    - Introduction paragraph (overview + key trends)
    - Two body paragraphs (main and secondary trends)
    - Concluding paragraph (summary using paraphrased terms and non-numerical expressions)



Source: Mapping Treatment Data Collector, Gomes et al., 2020)

Write your answer for the bar graph here:

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