

The National University of Singapore
Department of Psychology

PL3281D Lab in Music Perception and Cognition

Individual Research Manuscript Guidelines

Format

Each Team member will independently write and submit an individual research manuscript. The report must be word processed using 12-point Times New Roman font or Calibri font with double spacing.

You need to adopt the APA style, as well as observe the page limit specified for each section. The rationale for having page limits remains, as before, so that we train to write skilfully (cogently and succinctly) in preparations for writing research reports and honours theses in future. As such, sections written beyond their specified page limits, if any, would not receive credit. The following sections should be included in the submission:

Cover page

Include the running head, the finalized title of your study, and your name (only). [Note: Members within a Team would not necessarily adopt an identical title, since they might individually decide to approach and write the report from different viewpoints.]

Abstract

Provide a self-contained summary of your research through no more than 120 words.

The Abstract section will not exceed ONE page.

Introduction

Offer an integration of the relevant research literature from which the rationale/motivation of your present study was derived. Specifically, use the literature to provide logical and convincing justifications for why you pursued your research question. State your research question and hypotheses clearly in explicit statements (i.e., if certain patterns of results were expected, they should be stated explicitly).

The Introduction section should not exceed THREE pages.

Method

Describe clearly what you did in the study so that the reader may evaluate the validity of your study/results (and replicate and/or extend your study if so desired). Use past

tense here since you are describing a study which has already been conducted. You should typically include the following subsections:

Participants

Describe your sample, e.g., the number of subjects you used, how they were recruited.

Materials/Apparatus

Specify any unique materials or apparatus that you might have used.

Design and Procedure

In addition to stating your design (e.g., IVs, DVs, within/between/mixed designs, etc.), include other details that demonstrate how you exercised control in an experimental setting (e.g., counterbalancing checks or multiple equivalent sets of stimuli were used). Provide a very detailed chronology of the procedures you adopted. Include, where relevant, sample stimuli (e.g., word lists, questionnaire items, pictorial illustrations, etc.) in an appendix.

The Method section should not exceed THREE pages.

Results

Provide information such as the statistical tests used, whether effects were significant, and whether follow-up tests were done (and what these tests revealed). Importantly, provide and organize your results such that they relate closely to your hypothesis(es). You may wish to present your results in a table or as a figure (but not the raw ANOVA source table from SPSS) if you deem that it enables better understanding for the reader. If you are presenting tables or figures, be sure to label them appropriately and make reference to them in your main text.

[Note: Here, the results are presented (e.g., a trend emerged) but not interpreted (e.g., why the trend emerged). Defer your interpretations to the Discussion section.]

The Results section should not exceed TWO pages.

Discussion

Interpret your results, evaluate your research, and relate your findings to, and support them with, the existing literature. Specifically, explain how your experiment(s) answered the research question which you initially proposed, what your findings show in a substantive sense (e.g., how the data extend or expand the extant literature so that we now know something important that we had not known before), and future studies (where relevant to your project) that might be important to reveal research answers which you might not have obtained at this stage. You might also want to describe any weaknesses that existed in your design or procedures that could have limited your project. (Note that reasons such as subjects' fatigue normally could not constitute any relevant argument especially if effects did emerge, albeit in an unexpected direction.)

The Discussion section should not exceed THREE pages.

References

Include all book/journal article references in this section. Each reference must have been cited in your main text (i.e., those which you might have consulted through the course of literature search but which you eventually had not cited should not be listed).

This section has no page limit.

Pilot Studies

If you ran, and are including a write-up of, pilot studies, please include them right at the end of your report [after the figures/tables, if any, of your main experiment(s)]. You should give a title (e.g., “Pilot Study”, or “Pilot Study 1” if you have more than one pilot test) which should be immediately followed by “Methods” (i.e., there is no introduction here; justifications for conducting the pilot studies should have been offered earlier in the main text). You should include sections on Methods, Results, and, where you deem fit, (a brief) Discussion of your pilot study.

Each pilot study should be reported within TWO pages.

Evaluation

The individual research manuscript constitutes **55%** of the course assessment, and will be evaluated primarily on the following aspects [in their corresponding weightages]:

- (1) The overall merits of your final research project (e.g., how it attempted to complete or resolve an important puzzle or controversy within the literature).
[30%]
- (2) The logic, clarity and coherence of your write-up, describing, in a persuasive way, how your research project raised an important research question, and how your approach, methodology and findings extended our understanding of a particular phenomenon/concept/theory in new, meaningful ways.
[70%]

[Note: The actual outcome of your data *per se* does not influence the quality of your project; more important would be how we discuss the (e.g., in conclusive or unexpected) data in a way that enhances the understanding of a particular phenomenon, concept or theory.]

Submission

The individual research manuscript is due on **17 November 2023 (Friday) at 6 PM**. Please submit a softcopy (in word format) to the *Individual Research Manuscript Submission* folder on Canvas. A late submission without valid reasons will need to receive a reduction of 10% of its original marks in order to ensure fairness. As such, if you are faced with any reasons or difficulties relating to submission, please consult with me in advance.