General principles

Tailor to...

Structured
Concise
Referenced

Writing up research

Main aim

Introduction

Method

Results

Discussion

Writing up Qual research

A slightly different approach

Exploring an issue rather than testing a hypothesis
"Method/Results/Discussion" format dependent on method - justify decisions
Use other papers using this method as model
Reflexivity (researcher input)

Validity, reliability, generalisability, ethics...

Writing for publication

Sharing what you've found

Select a target journal

Read a lot of their publications

Shape your publication to their style (lots of intro? straight into the data? how long? ethics details?)

Write a cover letter

Submit paper with letter, brace yourself for reviews (and for a long waiting game)

Writing for publication

From idea to publication

"Good journals" only accept 10% of submissions

Editor --> Peer reviewers?
- accept (rare)
- minor revisions (what we all hope for)
- major revisions (second chance)
- reject (try somewhere else, don't take it personally)

Quantity or quality?

Idea, plan study, study in progress, publication in prep, under review, in press - one at each stage?

Writing up research

Cara Featherstone

Main aim

so that others can build on it

Writing up research

Cara Featherstone

Introduction
why this project is important

- General background
- Any inconsistencies or things missing in the literature?
- Why does that matter?
- What do you want to discover?
- What do you think you might find? (only if experimental project)

Method
what you did

- Participants
- Materials
- Design
- Procedure

Results

what the data show

Describe the data (initial impressions)
Add a figure or a table if appropriate
Report the statistical analysis
DO NOT relate the data to your hypothesis yet
Summarise what the analysis showed in terms of the numbers

Discussion

what it all means

Relate the data to the hypothesis
Relate your finding to the literature (intro)
Point out ways in which the study could be improved
Suggest further studies
End with strong take-home message

Abstract

the first thing they'll read

One sentence on each of these:
- why it's important
- what you did
- what the data show (but no numbers)
- what it all means

The main deciding factor in whether to read the rest!

Writing up research

Cara Featherstone

Main aim

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Writing up research

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General principles

Tips for (academic) life

Structured
Concise
Referenced

Main aim

so that others can build on it