Tips on completing assignments and tests

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Tips on completing the assignments and tests

- **First and foremost:** Make sure to leave your previous knowledge behind when starting the assignment/exams
  - If you trained more clinically, leave that behind
  - If you trained more in basic science, leave that behind
  - Etc.
- Try to think only about what the assignment/exam is giving in the background and tables/figures
- Example: Exam mentions only heart disease and Aboriginal populations (genetics)… Only discuss those two aspects unless the exam asks otherwise.

Tips, con't

- Keep it neat!
- Don't include p-values, just direction of effect
    - Optionally, include whether it is significant or not
- Don't need detailed knowledge of mechanisms, assignment/exam is meant to be generally self-contained
    - BUT! You still need to know how to think about mechanisms!
- Tables/figures, read legend first as it will contain important info

Tips, con't

- Provide concrete answers and justification
- Marks are **not** based on number of bullet points
- Can use short-hand (e.g. for greater use "$>$", for increase use "$\uparrow$", etc.)
- "No change" is just as important as "change"
- **Everything included is intentional**

Tips, con't

- Methods are assumed to be the best for that situation
- If animal studies, effect assumed to be same in humans
- When referencing data from a study, indicate where it came from (e.g. "X was greater than Y (Figure 1)", etc.)
- We mark on a question-by-question basis (not assignment-by-assignment), so repeating what you wrote from previous questions is **highly** encouraged, if not necessary for full marks!

Tips, con't

- Difference between increase/decrease and greater/lesser
  - Increase or decrease can only be stated when the experiment is over time and the comparison group is at time zero (baseline)
  - Greater or lesser can only be stated when the experiment does **not** have a comparison group at time zero (baseline) and does compare to other groups
- In final discussion questions that ask about interpreting data from multiple studies in the assignment, you can say "… in Study 1, these were found…" rather than "… in Figure 1 of Study 1, these were found.."