

Level 2A Research Report 2015

Student ID

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HOW TO USE THIS FEEDBACK For your report in Level 2 we are expecting that you have mastered the basic format for report writing in APA style as outlined in the level 2 report writing guide on Moodle. Below you will find some ticks which indicate the comments that apply to you (i.e. that you need to improve this area), followed by written comments based on the assessment criteria. You should read this information alongside your report and the research report writing guide on Moodle and use it to inform the writing of your future reports.

| Objective | Areas that need improvement |
|---|---|
| Title & Abstract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be specific to your study | <input type="checkbox"/> General headings, or long and complex descriptions |
| Abstract: Briefly summarise information from each section of the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area and aim of study Experimental design, number of subjects Main results (state the direction of the findings) and whether significant Main aspects of discussion summarised | <input type="checkbox"/> Not written as a coherent section <input type="checkbox"/> Biased (unbalanced) summary of the sections, ie too much procedure/detailed description of own study <input type="checkbox"/> Not written in the order of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Too long <input type="checkbox"/> Not a single paragraph <input type="checkbox"/> Vague and uninformative |
| Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline the topic area Provide a detailed literature review of main theories and major empirical work in the area Provide a clear justification / explanation for why the experiment was run Clearly state the hypothesis/es - This should clearly state the predicted relationship between the IV and DV | <input type="checkbox"/> Review of relevant literature is not adequately extensive <input type="checkbox"/> General statements with little supporting evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Review is poorly referenced <input type="checkbox"/> Description of own study only <input type="checkbox"/> General hypothesis (e.g. the IV will affect the DV) |
| Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This section should be correctly structured into appropriate sub-headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Have you clearly explained your IVs? Have you clearly defined your DV? Participants - How many, who were they? Materials/stimuli - Are your materials & stimuli clearly described? Procedure - report the task instructions, how participants responded. Have you detailed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarised written and verbal instructions How did participants record their answers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate sub-headings not used <input type="checkbox"/> Information is mixed up and provided under incorrect sub-headings or repeated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. Procedure is detailed in the Design e.g. Design or Stimuli is in the Procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Design is unspecified: IVs and DVs are not clearly stated in design. <input type="checkbox"/> Materials / stimuli poorly described <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure – report the experimental procedure, not the lab procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Experimental procedure lacking in detail |
| Results Hypothesis at the start Defined your IVs and DV and the relation between them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is summarised and explained using appropriate descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation) in the text Graph is correctly labelled/titled State whether your means seem to support your hypothesis (or not) For each hypothesis you should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the appropriate inferential statistic (necessary for acceptance/rejection of hypothesis) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State which test you are using for each analysis State which means your test is comparing Refer to bar graph Report results correctly, e.g. $t(38) = 3.7 p < 0.001$. Re-state the hypothesis in terms of your findings at the end. | <input type="checkbox"/> Poorly written – lack of text or not written as a coherent section <input type="checkbox"/> Raw data / calculations included <input type="checkbox"/> Do not report individual subject data or lab data <input type="checkbox"/> Tables/graphs used in place of text <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs/tables are not correctly titled or labelled <input type="checkbox"/> Error bars are not correctly displayed on the graphs <input type="checkbox"/> Do not import tables/graphs from statistical packages <input type="checkbox"/> t tests reported in a table/separate line – only report in the text <input type="checkbox"/> Do not explain how your descriptive/inferential statistics were calculated <input type="checkbox"/> Do not discuss theoretical inferences and implications of your results. |

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| <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-state your results and whether your hypothesis/es were supported - briefly • Theoretical implications - you should have demonstrated an understanding of the experiment and consider the implications of your findings • Have you provided a full explanation of your results? • Immediate impact of evidence & why this is important • Relate your results to previous research: state how your findings compare/contrast with findings of original study and other research • Assess the validity of your research – are there any confounding variables/design problems? • Future research – you should have discussed the scope of your study, and suggested future research avenues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Results summary should be in text - don't repeat your means/t-values <input type="checkbox"/> Poor theoretical discussion – current results are not fully explained <input type="checkbox"/> Current results are not interpreted in terms of theoretical models AND previous research <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid generic criticisms (e.g. more data, fewer students etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Future research questions are poorly (if at all) justified <input type="checkbox"/> Lengthy discussion of previous research/competing theories which is not informed by the current study |
| <p>References</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All evidence mentioned in the text should be correctly referenced (name, date of research) • All evidence in the text should have a full APA reference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Researchers / dates not stated in the text (e.g. general statements, 'research suggests...') <input type="checkbox"/> APA format not used in the reference section <input type="checkbox"/> Reference section not in alphabetical order <input type="checkbox"/> Minor errors in APA formatting |

Overall Comments

Throughout the research report, you are assessed according to the following criteria:

| Assessment Criteria | <u>Quality of the research carried out:</u> | <u>Level of knowledge, comprehension & evaluation of the topic:</u> | <u>Quality of the academic communication:</u> |
|--|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive research directly relevant to the topic. • Clear understanding of the research design, and the results. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluated relevant theories and research evidence. • Clear understanding of the purpose and implications of the study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly written, well-structured, and professionally presented |
| <i>What was done well</i> | | | |
| <i>You aimed to improve on...</i> | | | |
| <i>You asked for feedback on...</i> | | | |
| <i>What needs improvement/ what you should do for your next report</i> | | | |

- Revise the report writing guide <http://moodle2.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6002>
- Student Learning Services provide writing workshops - you should consider attending these classes, details can be found here: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/sls/informationforstudents/>
- Widen your reading of published journal articles-more information can be found here <http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/library/>
- Proof read for spelling, grammar & APA formatting before submitting-see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/> for details.
- Revise the reporting of statistical tests –see <http://moodle2.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4528> for details