

Research Report Writing

In groups discuss your homework assignment. Work through each section of the assignment – taking notes where appropriate in response to the following questions:

The Abstract

1. Which do you think is the best abstract and why?
2. If you were giving advice to the writers, what would it be? How can they improve these abstracts?
3. Did any of you receive comments about your abstracts, in your Level 1 lab report, if so what were they?
4. Do you have any concerns/questions on how you will write an abstract?

The Introduction

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this introduction?
2. If you were giving advice to the writer on how to improve this, what would it be?
3. What feedback did you receive on your introduction last year? Write down some of the comments you can remember and do they apply to this example?
4. Do you have any concerns/questions on how you will write the introduction this time?

The Method

1. Design: What advice would you give the writer of this excerpt on how this could be improved?
2. Participants, Apparatus & Stimuli, Procedure – compare and contrast the work of the 2 writers. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of each.
3. How will you structure the Method section this year? Reflect on feedback from last year – was this feedback clear? If not, discuss what you think the comments meant?

The Results

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each result section?
2. What advice would you give the writers?
3. Compare and contrast both, which is best?
4. What comments did you receive last year? How will you aim to improve your results section this year? What concerns/questions do you have on how to write this section?

The Discussion

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this discussion?
2. What advice would you give the writer on how best to improve?
3. What comments did you receive on your discussion sections & how will you approach the current assignment? What concerns/questions do you have on how to write this section?

Writing your research report

1. In groups discuss the lab report topic from Psychology 1B.

- What was the topic?
- What's the point of writing research reports? (i.e. what Psychological Literacy / graduate attributes are you developing?)
- Was this an easy or difficult task compared to other forms of assessment, and why?

2. Individually, write down:

- What feedback did you receive?
- In the report, what did you do well?
- In the report, what areas do you need to work harder on?

3. As a group look at the checklist and discuss for each section:

- Will this section be easy/difficult to complete? If difficult, why?
- What difficulties may you face in completing each section and how will you solve these challenges?
- Think about the time-frame for completing the work on time. How long will it take you to research/write this report? When will you begin? How will you fit this in with other work commitments?

Psychological Literacy

According to the Higher Education Authority (2013), Psychological literacy is “the idea that an understanding of basic principles of human behaviour and development gained through study of psychology will help us to better understand ourselves and others.” The Psychologically Literate Citizen extends this idea to bring this knowledge and apply this in their lives benefitting local and global citizens. Along with this subject-specific knowledge there is also a range of essential skills which ensure that psychology students develop as “critical scientific thinkers (who are) ethically and socially responsible participants in their communities” (McGovern et al 2010).

Graduate Attributes

Furthermore, the HEA argue that Psychological Literate individual is a, “lifelong learner with skills in information retrieval, critical evaluation, numeracy skills, knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods, written and oral communication skills, and team work skills. This ties in exactly with Glasgow University's Graduate Attributes – these are skills that you develop along with your studies and that you will have when entering the workplace. These are:

- Subject Specialists
- Investigative
- Independent and Critical Thinkers
- Resourceful and Responsible
- Effective Communicators
- Confident
- Adaptable
- Experienced Collaborators
- Ethically and Socially Aware
- Reflective Learners

For a full description see: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/students/attributes/>