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Writing A Results Section

PSYC 308
Spring 2024

Purpose of a Results Section

- Provides an overview of the relevant findings of your study.

- Significant findings provide evidence for your original research questions or hypotheses.

  - Think about how your data aligns with or deviates from your research questions or hypotheses.

Subsections

- Only include subsections that are relevant to your report.
- Descriptive Statistics
  - Summary of key variables
- Inferential Statistics
  - Significant findings from the statistical analyses that were conducted
  - Presentation of results (including tables and figures)
- Overall summary of key findings
  - Only use the ones that make sense for your report.

Subsections: Descriptive Statistics

- Description of participants
  - Provide demographic information about the participants (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity) and any relevant characteristics.
  - Do not repeat information found in the method section.
- Summary of key variables
  - Present descriptive statistics in graphs and tables (e.g., means, standard deviations) for each key variable in your study.
- Example Write-Up:
  - "Participants (N = 100) were undergraduate students from a university. The mean age was 20.5 years (SD = 1.8). Participants reported studying an average of 15.3 hours per week (SD = 3.2)."

Subsections: Inferential Statistics

- ## Statistical analyses
    - Describe the statistical tests used to analyze your data (e.g., t-tests, ANOVA, correlations, regression).
- ## Presentation of results
    - Report the outcomes of statistical tests, including test statistics, degrees of freedom, significance levels (p-values), and effect sizes if applicable.
    - Use tables and graphs to display these findings.
- ## Example Write-up:
    - "A Pearson correlation analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between hours of sleep per night and GPA. There was a statistically significant negative correlation between hours of sleep per night and GPA, r = -0.30, p < .01. The correlation coefficient (r) indicated a moderate negative relationship between hours of sleep and GPA. The p-value of less than .01 suggests that the correlation is unlikely to be due to random chance."
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Tips

- Use tables and figures appropriately,
  - Use tables and/or figures to present complex data or detailed results.
  - Ensure tables and figures are labeled clearly and referenced in the text.
- Provide interpretation, but avoid discussion.
  - Focus on describing your findings rather than interpreting them in-depth.
  - Save interpretation and discussion of the results for the Discussion section of your paper.
- Be objective.
  - Present your results objectively, without language that denotes personal bias or interpretation.
  - Do not say that a "the hypothesis was confirmed." Instead, say "there was a significant difference..."

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