

Research Paper Contents Checklist

Use the following checklist as a guide to ensure that you include all of the important components in your research paper. This checklist is a supplement to information presented in your Lab Manual. Consult your Lab Manual for general paper guidelines and the grading rubric.

Title

- Include independent and dependent variables
- Inform the reader (not meant solely to catch attention; avoid "The Effects of...")

Abstract

- Summarize purpose, hypothesis, methods, results, and interpretation of results and their significance
- Report mean values and results of statistical tests (if applicable)
- Should be 1 paragraph of roughly 100-200 words
- Hint*: Write this section last. DO NOT present information in the abstract that isn't found elsewhere in the poster.

Introduction

- Statement of purpose*
- Hypotheses
- Significance of the study*
- Makes critical predictions*

*Include references to support purpose, significance, and any background information required for the reader to understand the study.

Materials and Methods

- Description of study population (age, gender, # of subjects etc.)
- Design of study
- Data collection procedures*
- Instrumentation*
- Measurement techniques*
- Data processing (manipulation, formulae, conversions, etc.)
- Data Analysis (including your choice of statistical test(s), if performed)

*Include references and rationale to support methodology chosen.

Results

- Include statement rejecting or failing to reject the Null Hypothesis
- Discuss results giving reference to graphs/tables and including statistical analysis
- Include tables of summary data - NOT RAW DATA - (with captions)
- Include graphs (with captions)
- Figures should be clear and informative (reader only needs to read the caption to understand)
- Do NOT include your interpretation of the results (save for discussion)

Discussion

- Interpret your results and discuss their significance
- Relate your results to previous studies on topic*
- Discuss study limitations
- Include recommendations for further research or improvements on methods

*Include references as you discuss how your results relate to work of others.

References

- Cite all sources used
- Limit web citations