

WRITING UP RESULTS

APA style guide #2

Results section

- Summary of findings including statistical analyses
- Report tests in order hypotheses were presented
- Lead reader through analyses in logical order
- Best to use same sentence format throughout if uses same statistic

Results section

- Remember: all statistics are italicized
- Be consistent with # of decimal places for each statistic
 - ▣ p-values always go to 2 decimal places
 - ▣ Do not write 0.00 – b/c all values less than 1!
- Results that are significant
 - ▣ Provide statistic then p-value (“ $p = .03$ ”)
 - ▣ If p-value on SPSS output says “.000” then write as “ $p < .001$ ”
- Results that are non-significant (NOT insignificant!)
 - ▣ Provide statistic then p-value (“ $p = .22$ ”)
 - ▣ Or provide statistic only
 - ▣ Or statistic then “ $p = ns$ ”

Reporting correlations

- What test is used
- Report variables being investigated
- If it is significant or not
- Sample size (df or $n-1$ in parentheses after 'r')
- Value of the correlation
- Positive or negative sign of correlation
- Probability level
 - If exact then use “=” sign, if too small use “<” sign
- Direction of test used (1 or 2-tailed)
- Example:
 - The correlation between IQ and SAT scores was found to be statistically significant, $r(30) = +.65, p < .01$, two-tailed.
 - If there are too many correlations, report in table (correlation matrix) and discuss overall conclusions.

Self-concept

Correlations

		self concept: intimate relationships	self concept: friends	self concept: common sense intelligence	self-concept: academic intelligence	self-concept: general
self concept: intimate relationships	Pearson Correlation	1	.552**	.351**	.218	.393**
	Significance(2-tailed)	.	.000	.001	.052	.000
	N	80	80	80	80	80
self concept: friends	Pearson Correlation	.552**	1	.462**	.244*	.546**
	Significance(2-tailed)	.000	.	.000	.029	.000
	N	80	80	80	80	80
self concept: common sense intelligence	Pearson Correlation	.351**	.462**	1	.400**	.525**
	Significance(2-tailed)	.001	.000	.	.000	.000
	N	80	80	80	80	80
self-concept: academic intelligence	Pearson Correlation	.218	.244*	.400**	1	.261*
	Significance(2-tailed)	.052	.029	.000	.	.019
	N	80	80	80	80	80
self-concept: general	Pearson Correlation	.393**	.546**	.525**	.261*	1
	Significance(2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.019	.
	N	80	80	80	80	80

** . Correlation at 0.01(2-tailed):...

* . Correlation at 0.05(2-tailed):...

Self-concept results

- Correlations were computed among five self-concept scales on data for 80 men.
- The results suggest that 7 out of 10 correlations were statistically significant and were greater or equal to $r(78) = +.35, p < .05$, two-tailed.
- The correlations of competence rating of scholarly knowledge with other self-concept measures were not significant, with the exception of competence rating with common knowledge, $r(78) = .40, p < .01$.
- In general, the results suggests that men who are self-confident in one area tend to rate themselves as self-confident in other areas, with the exception of competence ratings for scholarly knowledge.

First Memories: Write-up

- “Correlational analyses were used to examine the relationship between the ages of younger and older participants’ first memories and their scores on three psychometric measures.”
- Results indicated an inverse relationship between the age of first memories and the scores on the WAIS-R digit-span backwards for younger adults, $r(46) = -.31, p < .02$, and older adults, $r(46) = -.29, p < .02$.
- This suggests that smarter individuals have earlier first memories.

Lang & Heckhausen (2001)

- Examine relationship between perceived control over development (PCD) and subjective well-being (SWB)
- Study 1: 480 adults 20-90 yrs
- 4 PCD items – 5 strongly agree to 1 strongly disagree:
 - ▣ “I am able to make my goals come true.”
 - ▣ “My abilities and efforts are significant to my success.”
- 4 Life satisfaction - 5 strongly agree to 1 strongly disagree:
 - ▣ “I am satisfied with my life these days.”
 - ▣ “As I get older, life is better than I thought it would be.”
- 20 Positive and negative affect – 5 very often to 1 not at all:
 - ▣ How often they felt each of 10 pos (interested, inspired, excited, attentive) or neg states (nervous, guilty, distressed, irritated)
- Also examined:
 - ▣ SES, “negative social support”, cognitive functioning, health functioning

Lang & Heckhausen (2001)

Table 2
Correlations of Observed and Latent Constructs and Covariates

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Construct										
1. Perceived control	—	.50	.72	-.28	-.05	-.03	-.12	.13	.08	.07
2. Life satisfaction	.35	—	.51	-.49	.02	.01	-.40	.13	.03	.19
3. Positive Affect	.58	.40	—	-.28	-.03	.05	-.12	.16	.19	.14
4. Negative Affect	-.13	-.36	-.15	—	-.07	.17	.44	-.04	.12	-.05
5. Age cohort	-.29	-.02	-.23	.25	—	.00	-.09	-.12	-.24	-.20
Covariates										
6. Sex ^a	-.02	.01	.04	.14	-.00	—	.04	-.11	.16	-.10
7. Negative soc. support	.03	-.27	.02	.46	-.39	.04	—	.10	.12	.00
8. SES	.15	.12	.18	-.00	-.15	-.11	.15	—	.45	.20
9. Cognitive functioning	.19	.04	.27	.21	-.49	.14	.29	.45	—	.28
10. Health	.26	.14	.27	.16	-.74	-.07	.30	.23	.51	—

Note. Coefficients below the diagonal represent correlations of raw constructs for total sample ($N = 480$); coefficients above the diagonal represent correlations of latent constructs across the three age groups and are constrained to be equal across groups. Age and covariates were used as single indicator constructs in the model. Coefficients printed in bold are significant ($p < .05$). Variances of latent constructs were fixed to 1. soc = social; SES = socioeconomic status.

^a 2 = female, 1 = male.

Lang & Heckhausen (2001)

- “Table 2 shows the correlations among...Strong perceived control over development was consistently associated with greater life satisfaction, more frequent positive affect, and less frequent negative affect. With one exception, no significant sex differences in the mean-level of perceived control and subjective well-being were observed.”
- “Receiving negative social support was associated with reduced positive affect only among young adults but not among old adults. One reason may be that age was associated with experiencing less negative support ($r = -.39$, $p < .01$).”
- “In summary, perceived control over development was found to be a potent predictor of positive emotional experience and life satisfaction...”

How to plan your results section

- Create an outline
 - ▣ Sections should follow logical order – use section headers
- Write general introduction to results section
 - ▣ “The findings of the study are reported in X sections. In the first part, xxxx will be examined...”
- Write general conclusion to results section
 - ▣ “In summary, xxx was found to be xxx...”