

The results section only is due next, but I thought you might want to get a head start on the discussion section (which will be part of the complete APA style report)

Results: This section simply describes the statistical results. Note: you do need to write complete sentences to describe the results.

1. Summarize what you found using appropriate statistics
2. include any necessary tables or figures

Always explain what variable you are describing with descriptive statistics. Say “The mean number of problems solved by participants in the experimental condition was 15 ($SD = 2.23$)”.

Not, “The mean in the experimental condition was 15 ($SD = 2.23$)”.

If you are reporting more than 2 means (or 2 correlation coefficients), use a table or figure, but be sure to refer to it in the text of the results section. For example, "There was a significant difference in number of problem solved for across the three experimental conditions ($F(2,36) = 15.23, p=.02$). See Table 1 for mean problems solved by condition and associated standard deviations.

Discussion: Here is where you interpret the results.

1. Did your data support your hypothesis? How was your research question answered?
2. How do the results of your study relate to previous research? Are the findings consistent or inconsistent with existing literature? If they are inconsistent, come up with possible explanations of the contradiction.
3. Acknowledge any flaws or limitations in your research? Assess reliability, construct validity, external validity, power (if you did not find statistically significant results) and internal validity
4. Suggest methods for improvement
5. Propose ideas for future research