

Guidelines for Introduction & Method Section

You are to turn in the Introduction and Method sections for your final paper. Both must be typed and in APA style (now is when you need to start worrying about formatting details (e.g., manuscript headers, proper formatting of headings). (See http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.cfm?doc_id=796 for help and an example).

Proofread your paper. I will grade your paper on what you write and how well you write it. Be careful to guard against plagiarism: it will be detected and appropriate consequences will be administered. Be sure to cite references when you express an idea that is not your own. Further, paraphrasing requires that you express an idea **in your own words**.

Changing the order of the words in an existing sentence or finding synonyms for those words is not paraphrasing--it is plagiarizing. To be certain you understand what plagiarism is, follow this link

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/about/what.html#verbatim> or this one

http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/ or any of the links on the course Web site.

- Along with the Introduction and Method sections, your assignment will include an APA style title page and an APA style reference page
- **YOU MAY NOT USE ANY DIRECT QUOTATIONS IN YOUR PAPER (EVEN IF APPROPRIATELY CREDITED).** IF YOU DO, YOUR PAPER GRADE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DROPPED BY 30%. This restriction may seem odd, but it will let me to know that you really do understand what you read. If you have a quote that you really want to use, you may show it to me and I'll let you know if I will give you an exception to this rule.
- Both the introduction and methods section should be written in the past tense (we are pretending you've completed the study already). After you actually do complete data collection, you'll need to modify the "participants" section of your paper so that it truly reflects your sample. For now, just put question marks in the places where you would need to give specific numbers (e.g., % of males, mean age)

Below are outlines of the sections, but be certain to use all of the sources I've given you to help organize your writing.

Introduction:

The introduction is usually the most difficult to write so allot enough time for the task (remember you may already have the last paragraph written if you liked the article you chose for the first assignment).

Here, you will provide a logical argument, set in the context of a literature review that will lead the reader directly to your hypothesis. You must base your writing in this section on **at least 5 scholarly articles**. *You may supplement those sources with any others that you choose (including textbooks).* *You may not, however, base your hypothesis on findings reported in the popular press that is not also supported by scholarly work. For each missing scholarly journal article, your grade on this assignment will be dropped by 20%.*

- Introduce the topic in general terms:
 - Show how the topic is important for basic and/or applied reasons; Grab the reader's interest! Why would anyone care about your topic?
- Briefly review the research findings and/or theories related to the topic
 - Give some background to the reader so they can put your hypothesis in a context
 - Educate your reader on what is generally known about your topic by reviewing research conducted by others
 - Review previous empirical work in enough detail that the readers have a general idea about how the studies were completed, but be wary of getting bogged down in the details.
- State the problem that the present project addressed (e.g., a gap in the literature, contradictory findings in the literature, test of a theory in a new situation, pit two theories against one another) **Be sure to show how the problem you have identified is indeed important. BE CERTAIN TO PROVIDE A LITERATURE BASED RATIONALE FOR YOUR PREDICTION(S)!!!**
- State your hypothesis in terms of the CONSTRUCTS of interest **and be explicit about the logic that led to your**

hypothesis

- Briefly describe the method you used to test your hypothesis; how and in what type of situation did you test the hypothesis and describe predictions about the outcome and show how those predictions are related to your hypothesis

Method

This section provides a step-by-step description of what happened during the research sessions. This section should be explicit enough that another researcher could read this part of the paper and replicate your study.

Participants

- Who were they? Describe all relevant demographics
- How many did you use?
- How were they recruited? How many refused to participate?

Materials/Apparatus: Here is where you describe any questionnaires, instructions or equipment that you used to measure/manipulate variables. If possible, it is always a good idea to attach your actual materials in an Appendix.

- Which construct did you manipulate? How did you operationalize the construct?
- Which construct did you measure? How did you operationalize the construct?
- Give sample items
- Describe possible range of scores and scoring

Procedures:

- If you conducted an experiment describe how subjects were assigned to conditions and what those experimental conditions were
- What did you ask subjects to do?
- How much time was allotted for each task?

How were surveys distributed and collected?

Below is the rubric I will use to grade this assignment

Topic	Points Obtained/Points Possible
Introduce the topic in general terms: Show how the topic is important for basic and/or applied reasons; Grab the reader's interest! Why would anyone care about you topic?	/10
Briefly review the research findings and/or theories related to the topic: Give some background to the reader so they can put your hypothesis in a context; Educate your reader on what is generally known about your topic by reviewing research conducted by others. Be certain to review previous empirical work in enough detail that the readers have a general idea about how the studies were completed, but be wary of getting bogged down in the details.	/15
State the problem that the present project addressed (e.g., a gap in the literature, contradictory findings in the literature, test of a theory in a new situation, pit two theories against one another) Be sure to show how the problem you have identified is indeed important. (BE CERTAIN TO PROVIDE A LITERATURE BASED RATIONALE FOR YOUR PREDICTION(S))!!	/20
State the purpose of the present project State your hypothesis in terms of the CONSTRUCTS of interest and be explicit about the logic that led to your hypothesis	/10
Briefly describe the method you used to test your hypothesis; how and in what type of situation did you test the hypothesis & Describe predictions about the outcome and show how those predictions are related to your hypothesis.	/10
Participants	/5
Materials	/5
Procedures	/5
APA Style	/5
Writing Style (grammar, coherence, etc.)	/15
Total	/100