

## Final Paper Outline

\*\*\*Put your sections in the following order\*\*\*

### Cover Letter

1. You can follow the APA 7th Edition Student Paper formatting guidelines

### Abstract (not included in page count)

1. An abstract is a short (150-300 words) overview of the study YOU conducted.
2. **Needs** to include
  - a. hypothesis,
  - b. short description of your methodology- did you use a survey, in person experiment, assessments, etc.
  - c. Results- include the statistical analyses you used, and the MOST important findings
  - d. Conclusion- was your hypothesis supported or not
3. Remember- this is a short summary of your study. 1-2 sentences per section should be enough to reach the word count.
4. Your abstract CANNOT be greater than 1 pg in length. Points will be deducted if it is.

\*\*\*\*\***REMEMBER:** your paper needs to be 8-10 pgs in length \*\*\*\*\*

### Introduction (1-3pgs)

1. You found at least 4 articles related to your topic- ALL FOUR MUST BE INCLUDED
  - a. A SHORT summary of the articles should be included
  - b. The **most important** part you need to discuss is how this article helped you form your hypothesis.
2. Your last paragraph should consist of your research question & hypothesis.
  - a. Example of the difference between a **research question** & a **hypothesis**: Based on the literature review, the researchers are interested in testing the effects of chocolate on college students' studying habits. Because of the increase in dopamine levels thus increasing energy levels, chocolate will have a positive effect on students' studying habits.
3. Be sure to include proper APA in-text citations throughout the intro.
  - a. Points will be deducted if no citation are used; you need to discuss the articles you found, meaning you should be including in-text citations
  - b. Direct quotes are NOT ALLOWED. Points will be deducted if you do include direct quotes from other sources.

**Methods (1-4pgs)**

1. Who are the participants?
  - a. Describe the demographics of the population you used in your study (age, race, ethnicity, low/middle/high SES, college/non-college students, gender, sex, hair color, etc).
2. Why did you choose to focus on this population? Why did you choose to not include other demographics?
  - a. Include your reasoning for choosing this population (and why you chose to exclude other demographics)- cite at least 2 sources for making this decision
3. Procedure
  - a. Write out, step-by-step, the process for gathering your data. Do NOT write this in a list format; use transitional words such as First, next, then, lastly, etc.
  - b. Cite at least 1 source (but more should be used) to explain why your group decided to conduct the experiment with this procedure
  - c. Be sure to clearly state what your measures were and what your independent and dependent variables are.
    - i. Be sure to describe how the independent variables were manipulated!
4. Describe any and all materials that were used- cite at least 1 source to support your reasoning for using these materials and/or for utilizing their surveys/questionnaires or mimicking their procedures
  - a. if you used surveys, include the survey questions as an appendix to your assignment
  - b. if you used physical materials, describe what you used and how you used them, ex. To measure changes in blood pressure, a blood pressure machine was rented and used. While the participants were seated with their feet flat on the ground with the blood pressure cuff placed on the left arm, their blood pressure was measured electronically.

**Results (1-2pgs)**

In paragraph form, your results section needs to include:

1. The data from your study: means, standard deviations, percentage description of your participant sample (i.e., 10% Hispanic, 15% White/Caucasian, ...), reliabilities, and effect size.
2. Include what statistical analyses were performed: t-test, regression analysis, ANOVA, etc.
  - a. What were your findings
3. Accurate interpretation of results
4. Include a visual aid to describe your results: graph, table, pie charts, figures etc.
  - a. Be sure to label your axes & to include units of measurement (if appropriate)

**Discussion (1-2pgs)**

In paragraph form, your discussion section needs to include:

1. Did your findings support your initial hypothesis?
  - a. If so, explain how your procedure led you to this result
  - b. If not, explain why you think it didn't?
2. Did something occur during your experiment that didn't go as expected? What could you have done to prevent this from happening?
3. Were there any limitations in your study? Such as access to a certain demographic, material, etc.?
4. Include a suggestion or idea that could further advance this topic in future research.

**References**

1. Make sure to follow APA format
2. References should be listed in alphabetical order
3. Hanging indent of 0.5
4. If you include a reference here, then that means you have an in-text citation of it in your paper. If you cited a source in your paper, then that means it needs to be in your reference list.

**Appendix/Appendices**

1. If you used a survey or assessment, you NEED to include the questions you used here.
2. Be sure to label the sections of the questionnaire
  - a. For example, if you used multiple measures or scales, if you used multiple surveys (pre- and post- experiment), etc., include headings so I know which is which