How to Grade the Research Report
Prof. Jack Bauer
85 points total

Structural Organization (10 points)
• APA style for headings and sections (as listed below)
  • If they use the heading “Introduction,” that’s okay
  • The new APA style says to bold everything, and second-level headings are not italicized, but if they use non-bold and italics, that’s okay. What’s important is that they separate the sections in these categories, and that the distinction between first- and second-level sections is clear
• APA style for citations and references
• No title page or abstract

Introduction (15 points)
• Two predictions clearly stated regarding specific variables and the concepts they measure
  • Each prediction should involve two variables (one variable may be used in both predictions)
  • These variables should be named properly
  • The variables and predictions should be explained in common language, showing the reader what the phenomena is (and showing the grader that the writer knows what’s going on)
• Overarching theme/idea between the two predictions
• Citations for ideas from class lecture, text, or articles should be cited as such

Method (25 points)
Participants (5 points)
• Reports number of participants) of study
• Reports frequencies of gender, year in college, and ethnicity
• Must report frequencies of other demographic variables if used in hypothesis

Procedure (5 points)
• Must mention how they gathered data. It was a survey. Each student produced data for three people—either three other people or two other people plus him/herself

Measures (15 points)
• Must describe each measure that was used to test the predictions
• Each measure should be cited appropriately (correct citation, APA style)
  • Description of measures should not include the name of the title of the journal or other unnecessary info
• Should NOT describe measures that were not used to test the predictions
  • However, in the case of a measure/questionnaire with multiple dimensions (e.g., TIPI, the big-five trait measure), the student may (but does not need to) provide a brief description of the other dimensions (say, the name of the other dimension/s), but not in detail. The fuller descriptions (described below) should be used only for the predicted measures/variables
• Descriptions of variables should include:
  • Name of the variable
  • Description of the kinds of items that were used, possibly by giving examples of the items themselves
  • Description of the scale used, e.g., “participated rated items on a 1-7 scale”
    • They don’t have to describe what the anchors meant, e.g., “strongly disagree” etc.

**Results (15 points)**
• Must use APA style for reporting results
• Must report the correct findings for the variables in question
• Must report findings only for the variables outlined in the Method section
• Keep in mind that the entire section may be just a sentence or two

**Descriptive Statistics**
• Descriptive statistics on gender, year in college, or ethnicity are reported earlier in Method section
• Here report mean, standard deviation, and range (min. – max.) of each variable in predictions

**Correlations**
• Most of the results will use Pearson correlations. These findings should take the form of:
  “[Variable X] correlated significantly with [variable Y], \( r = .zzz, p = .zzz. \)” OR “[Variable X] did not correlate significantly with [variable Y], \( r = .zzz, p = .zzz. \)”
  • \( r \) values can read .zz or .zzz.
  • \( p \) values can read = .zzz or \( p < .05 \) etc. (FYI, APA now likes the “\( p = \)” form)

**T-Tests**
• If applicable to hypotheses, analyses using categorical variables (e.g., gender/sex) to predict continuous-level variables (e.g., traits, well-being) should use t-tests. So: “[Group A] reported significantly higher levels of [variable X] than did [Group B], \( t(\text{df}) = z.zz, p = .zzz \)” OR “[Group A] did not report significantly higher levels of [variable X] than did [Group B], \( t(\text{df}) = z.zz, p = .zzz \)”
  • Again, \( p \) values can read = .zzz or \( p < .05 \) etc. (FYI, APA now likes the “\( p = \)” form)

**Discussion (15 points)**
• Must explain the results in a way that correctly reflects the statistics
• Must explain the results “in English”
• Quality of the interpretation
  • Logic and coherence (v. rambling or no central point)
    • Excellent: A discussion that explains and integrates both findings well
    • Good: A discussion that explains each finding well individually but not as integrated
  • Psychological insight/novelty/creativity (ideas that are complex/subtle/interesting and still explained reasonably)
• Award points for psychological insight

**References (5 points)**
• APA style, except no need for DOI

Three pages maximum