Your “Results” section provides a summary of the key data that you collected during your research. This handout will help you to present your data in a clear and concise way.

### Purpose

This section of your paper clearly presents the data produced from testing your hypothesis using words as well as numerical and statistical data. It includes the experimental findings germane to the main points of your work.

### Elements

#### Introduction

Like the introductions for the other sections of your text, preview the content and organization of this section for your reader. Only include results for those experiments described in your “Materials & Methods” section.

*Note:* For more information on how to write a “Materials and Methods” section, please see our [handout](#) on this topic.

#### Descriptive Statistics

The method selected to analyze statistics for this section should be the same as the one described in the “Data Analysis” portion of your “Materials and Methods” section. The main goal is to include the statistics necessary for your readers to draw conclusions from your data.

If it will not be obvious to your audience, explain why the measure or test you have chosen is the most appropriate to your study.

Depending on the nature of your study, you will want to discuss your data’s central tendency, variability, relative position, and statistical significance. Also include information on population size and characteristics.

#### Research Questions and Hypotheses

Organize your results around your research questions and hypotheses. These should follow a logical chain, with each question leading to an experiment that leads to the next question and experiment. Include any results that oppose your hypothesis, and address the reasons for any missing data.

Each research question or experiment can be listed under its own subheading. Use subheadings to
walk the reader through your logical sequence. Follow your thought process rather than the chronological order of the experiments.

**Background and Purpose of the Experiment**

Briefly provide context for and explain the intent behind each experiment, detailing the experiment process, what you hoped to determine, the important points from the data, and how this information relates to your research questions and hypotheses.

**Example:** Evidence suggests that bullying behavior is the result of low self-esteem. To understand the interaction between bullying and self-esteem, we...

**Experimental Approach**

Briefly describe the experiment you conducted in order to achieve your purpose of answering your research question.

**Example:** To understand the interaction between bullying and self-esteem, we surveyed recently suspended adolescents at five Baltimore high schools.

**Interpretation of Results**

The results section is more than a collection of data from your research: it works to analyze the data for the reader. Start paragraphs with your “take-home” message to the reader, and then describe the data.

Refer to figures in parentheses. Readers should be able to understand your meaning without referring to the figures.

Identify patterns, changes, and trends, but do not draw conclusions or state implications.

**Data:** Resting reading rate was 40 lines per minute after use of metronome.

**Interpretation:** Resting reading rate increased to 40 lines per minute after use of metronome.

While you will want to interpret your data as you present it, leave general conclusions, comparisons, and data synthesis to other studies for your “Discussion” section.

**Note:** For more information on how to write a “Discussion” section, please see our handout on this topic.

**Tables and Charts**

Direct your reader to data in your tables and charts. Remember to number and name each table or chart. Clearly label your headings and include any necessary notes. Check your discipline’s style guide for specifics about formatting these features.

**Figures**

You can use figures to illustrate raw data, trends or findings of data, or statistics from analyzed data. They can also be used to illustrate a complex experimental or analytical process. Figures should allow your reader to understand the data without referring to the text.

Include a descriptive title. Your caption should explain any symbols or abbreviations that you use and specify any methods necessary to understand the figure. Offer a brief description of the data presented and the significance statistics (e.g., p-values).
References


Journal of Neuroscience. (n.d.). Organization of the manuscript. Retrieved from http://www.jneurosci.org/site/misc/ifa_organization.xhtml#Results


