

Note importantly: This PDF is provided as a support material to the USYD 2021 Psychology Research Report Writing Module and should be used in conjunction with that resource. If you have found this PDF elsewhere, please ensure that you access the Psychology Research Report Module in order to learn how to use it.

Research Report Writing Plan

Introduction (3-5 paragraphs)

Introduce the field. Define key terms and/or introduce key concepts in the field.

Describe relevant previous findings/conclusions in the field and methods used to find them.

Outline relevant weaknesses/limitations/shortcomings/outstanding questions in those findings/conclusions

Explain how the method/design/novel features of the current study addresses those previous shortcomings (and describe the relevant novel features of the method which do that)

Outline a theoretical stance/argument, and derive hypotheses (expectations about what will happen in the new study) consistent with that stance. Juxtapose predictions against prior outcomes/claims/stances.

Results

A plan is not necessary. Complete your results section as the module instructs first.

Discussion (3-5 paragraphs)

Briefly recap key results.

Relate key results to hypotheses and explain the meaning of what was found.

Explain how the key innovations of the study (made to address previous weaknesses/limitations/shortcomings/outstanding questions) either worked or did not work.

Explain how what was found challenges or moves beyond what was previously found in this field.

Qualify the reach or impact of the findings (and suggest specific future methods to address limited reach).

Abstract (4 sentences)

Previous literature summary (the most relevant prior finding/conclusion- include citation)

What was done in the current study (emphasise innovations)

What was found (key results only)

What it means (for the study and the field)