

Group Presentation & Individual Research Report Guidelines

All students will be required to administer a class survey to ten individuals. Data collection will start on January 25th. Surveys are due in class on February 10th.

Students will work in groups composed of 3 to 4 people (determined on January 25th). During the data collection process, groups should begin to develop ideas for their group presentation/individual research report. To help aid in this process, it will be beneficial for groups to begin conducting literature searches on potential research topics. For example, if a group wants to investigate gender differences in physical activity, groups should begin to conduct literatures searches on this topic to help develop a background in the area and to develop hypotheses. All topics must be approved by me no later than February 3rd.

After the data is entered into SPSS, I will run the statistical analyses for each group. I will meet with each group separately to discuss the results on March 29th.

PRESENTATIONS WILL START ON 4/14 (WEDNESDAY)—NOT 4/19 (AS STATED IN THE SYLLABUS)

Individual Research Report

Each group member will write an **individual** research report (in APA style) on the group topic. In other words, although each group member will write about the same topic, all members of the group are required to independently write the research paper. Directions will be given in class regarding APA format. All papers should include a title page, abstract, introduction, methods section, results section, discussion, and references.

-Title Page.

-Abstract. A 120-word summary of the paper. Should include background, methods, results, and conclusion.

-Introduction. Describes the issue/problem and prior research. This leads into your study question and hypotheses.

-Methods Section. Describes the participants (number, characteristics, etc.), the materials/measures used, and the recruitment/selection process.

-Results Section. Reports the results. Were the hypotheses supported?

-Discussion. Describes overall findings, importance of findings, whether results support past research, limitations to the study, and the next steps in the research process.

-References. There should be a one-to-one correspondence between text and reference list.

The following items will be used to evaluate the research report.

FORMAT (5 points)

1. **APA format.** APA format errors will result in the loss of points. Please make sure the following items/areas are in correct APA format:

Title page

Page format (running head, page number)

Appropriate sections

- Headings in correct format
- Numbers used correctly (written or numerals)
- References: one-to-one correspondence between text and reference list
 - correct format for citations in text
 - correct format for reference list
- Tables and figures in correct format
- Order of sections

2. **Mechanics.** Mechanical errors will result in the loss of points. This includes spelling, grammar, punctuation, tense, non-professional tone.

CONTENT

3. **Abstract.** (5 points)
 - Summarizes purpose, method (including participants, procedure), major results, conclusions.
4. **Introduction.** (10 points)
 - Presents the main argument for the study.
 - Well organized with clear logical progression:
 - Good transitions, topic sentences, preview and summary paragraphs.
 - Ends with definition of variables and statement of hypotheses.
5. **Methods.** (10 points)
 - Describes how the study was conducted.
 - Participants: Number, characteristics, selection process.
 - Materials/Measures: Operational definitions of each measure given.
 - Scoring/response procedures.
6. **Results.** (10 points)
 - Descriptive statistics given to summarize data.
 - Appropriate analyses reported in APA style.
 - Statement of support/lack of support for research hypotheses.
 - Tables and figures (if have) mentioned in text.
 - NOTE: Tables and figures are NOT in the results section.
7. **Discussion.** (10 points)
 - Answer to the original research question provided.
 - Data linked to studies previously cited-supported or not supported.
 - Any methodological problems or limitations described.
 - Next steps in research process given.
 - Relevant applications.

Group Presentation

Group members will present the results of the work in a class presentation on April 14th through April 26th. Presentations should last approximately 30 minutes and include the following information:

- A **background section** describing the issue/problem and prior research. The background section should lead up to your study question (*≈ 8-12 slides*)
- Your **specific aim(s)**. Ex: To investigate the relationship between X and Y (*≈1 slide combined with hypotheses*)

- Your **hypotheses**: Ex: Hypothesis 1: Individuals who consume more alcohol will demonstrate higher self-reported craving (*≈1 slide combined with specific aims*)
- A **description of the sample** and information about the **survey**, including the exact survey questions you examined (*≈1 slide*)
- A **results section** documenting your findings. Can use text, tables, and/or figures (*≈3-6 slides*)
- Conclusions and limitations**. Summarize the findings and mention limitations of the study (*≈1-2 slides*)
- Future research**. Based on your review of the literature and your findings, what's the next questions that could be asked or the next study that could be used to investigate this problem? Refer to the articles you put in the background section for ideas (see last 2 paragraphs of the Discussion section in those papers) (*≈1 slide*)

≈20-25 slides total

The following items will be used to evaluate the presentation

1. **The content**. Was it clearly communicated with important points emphasized? (10 points)
2. **PowerPoint**. Was it neatly made and easy to read? (10 points)
3. **Organization**. The material was presented in a clearly apparent structure. (5 points)
4. **Use of class time**. Did the presenters make every minute count? (5 points)
5. **Appearance**. Were the presenters neat and dressed professionally? (5 points)
6. **Delivery**. Includes volume, speed, enunciation, eye contact, no distracting gestures or vocal behaviors (um, uh, etc.) (10 points)

The following items will be used to evaluate your ability to follow the directions for the presentation. Each item is worth two points (and thus, failing to follow directions will result in a 2 point reduction for each item).

1. Presentation topics were given to me by 2/3 (Wednesday).
2. Presentation was approximately 30 minutes long (2 to 3 minutes in either direction will not result in a loss of points).
3. All members of the group spoke during the presentation.