Psychology 260 — Formats

Format for Proposals

APA format research article, 12-point font, double-spaced.

Word limit – proposal 1: 500-1000 words; proposal 2: 500-1500 words.

Must have cover page, figures, tables (if appropriate), and references. Must have the following sections:

- Introduction (nature of the issue, motivation, previous work)
- Methods
- Possible Results (briefly describe the 2 most likely)
- Possible Conclusions (briefly describe one for each possible result)

Please bring 4 (four) hardcopies to class.

Introduction

Describe the “big picture”. Include:

- **Purpose**: A clear statement of what the research question is, and how it might be studied. Include a brief mention of the independent and dependent variables.
- **Motivation**: Why the study would be interesting and/or important; which aspects of the field might be affected by the conclusions.
- **Previous work**: Mention at least 5 relevant studies. If nothing is directly relevant, then mention the 5 most relevant studies. Make sure to include some of the latest studies.

Methods

Give enough information to let readers understand how the experiment could be done. Include:

- a clear description of the dependent variable(s).
- a clear description of the independent variable(s).
• a description of what the observers are asked to do.

• a justification of why this would likely work

Possible Results

Discuss the relationship that might found between the dependent and independent variables. The two most likely possibilities should be discussed. These should include:

• a description of the relationship that might exist between the variables. Do not include theory at this point.

Possible Conclusions

Discuss the possible answers to the research question, and the importance of each answer. Possible conclusions should be discussed for each of the possible results above. These should include:

• an interpretation of what the data patterns mean. (Do not discuss the data patterns themselves; this should be done in the Possible Results section.)

• implications these results would have for the issue being studied.

• implications these results would have for related issues elsewhere in the field.

Please bring 4 (four) hardcopies with you to class.

Format for Final Reports

APA format research article, 12-point font, double-spaced.

Word limit: 1500-2500 words

Must have cover page, figures, tables (if appropriate), and references. Must have the following sections:

Introduction (nature of the issue, motivation, previous work)

Methods
Results (based on collected data)

Conclusions (based on results)

Please bring 1 (one) hardcopy to class.

Please bring 4 (four) hardcopies with you to class.

Presentations

Presentations will be 6 minutes long—4 minutes for the presentation itself, and 2 minutes for questions. All of these should include at least a brief mention of:

- **Introduction**: Nature of the issue, motivation, previous work
- **Methods**: Participants, apparatus, procedure
- **Results**: What were the main experimental findings?
- **Conclusions**: What do these findings mean? How do they relate to your research question?

Presentations are to be made using pdf files, submitted to the TA the midnight just prior to the class.

**Time limits will be strictly enforced, so please practice your presentation beforehand.**

Proposals and Reports in More Detail

**Introduction**

Describe the “big picture”. Include:

- **Nature of the Issue**: A clear statement of what the research question is, and how it will be studied. Include a brief mention of the independent and dependent variables.
- **Motivation**: Why the study is interesting and/or important; which aspects of the field might be affected by the conclusions.
• Previous work: Mention at least 5 relevant studies. If nothing is directly relevant, then mention the 5 most relevant studies. Make sure to include some of the latest work.

Methods

Give enough information to let readers understand how the experiment was done. Include:

• a clear description of the dependent variable(s).
• a clear description of the independent variable(s).

• a description of what the observers were asked to do.
  • figures of at least some of the test conditions.

Results

Present the relationship found between the dependent and independent variables. Include:

• a description of the relationship found between the variables. Do not include theory at this point.
• when summarizing data, avoid tables; use graphs instead whenever possible.

Conclusions

Present the answer to the research question, and the importance of this answer. Include:

• an interpretation of what the data patterns mean. (Do not describe the data patterns themselves; this should be done in the Results section.)
  • implications these results have for the issue being studied.
  • implications these results have for related issues elsewhere in the field.