

Academic Writing in Empirical Disciplines: Typical elements of IMRD*-structured papers

Abstract: Providing a brief overview

• Summarising research: Context, research questions/hypotheses, sample and methods, results, conclusions and implications

Introduction: Creating interest in your research and provide context

- Establishing context and stating centrality of topic
- Critically reviewing relevant previous research:
 - Addressing controversies
 - Clarifying terms
- Identifying a knowledge gap
- Filling the gap:
 - Generating hypotheses or stating expectations
 - Explaining expectations (if necessary)
- Stating implications of expected outcomes

Methods: Providing enough details to allow replication of your research

- Describing sample (e.g. participants, corpus, data) and materials (e.g. measuring technique, apparatus, prompts, software)
- · Describing (and justifying) the procedure: How and in which order data was collected
- Introducing the research design (e.g. variables, measurements, experimental set-up, participant assignments, survey items, codification, (novel) statistical approaches)
- Describing (and justifying) the method of analysis

Results: Presenting your results, visualising results in tables and graphs

- (Re-introducing context/aims/methods)
- Summarising results
- Referring to graphs, figures etc.
- Reporting results
- Commenting on results
 - → present descriptive statistics before test statistics

Discussion: Showing how your results match your research question

hypotheses or research questions)

- Grounding the Discussion:
 - Re-introducing general or study-specific background
 - Recounting principal findings
- Commenting on Results
 - Explicating/accounting for results
 - Clarifying expectations
 - Addressing limitations (or in separate section at the end)
 - Discussing sources of errors and statistical significance
- Referencing Literature
 - Supporting/countering with evidence (throughout the section)
- Expanding on comments
 - Generalising results
 - Stating value of study
 - Noting implications: How your results could impact practice or relate to relevant theories
 - Proposing directions

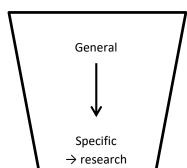
Conclusion: Summarising the most important points, stating general implications and suggesting further research

This resource condenses content by:

Beins, B. C., & Beins, A. M. (2012). Effective Writing in Psychology. (2nd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons. Cotos, E., Link, S., & Huffmann, S. (2016). Studying disciplinary corpora to teach the craft of Discussion. Writing & Pedagogy, 8(1), 33-64. Siepmann, D. (2012). Wissenschaftliche Texte auf Englisch schreiben. Stuttgart: Klett Swales, John M. (1990). Genre Analysis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Note: This handout is written in British English. The references are provided in APA style (6th ed.). *IMRD: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion





question

