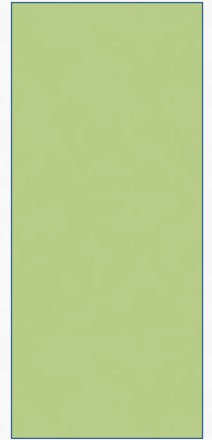




"If I work hard, I'll get good grades. If I get good grades, I'll go to a top college. If I go to a top college, I'll get a great job. If I get a great job, I'll make a lot of money. If I make a lot of money, everyone will hate me. That's why I didn't do my homework."

# FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

PSY 280



# FINAL RESEARCH PAPER OVERVIEW

- **Abstract:** Change to past tense. Indicate results (whether hypothesis was supported).
- **Title Page:** Remains unchanged in the Final Paper
- **Introduction:** Stays virtually the same. Change description of your study in the last paragraph or elsewhere to past tense!
- **Method:** Change to past tense!

# FORMATTING OVERVIEW

**~CHANGE REFERENCES TO YOUR STUDY TO PAST TENSE!!!**

- **Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling, Sentence Structure**

- Get it right! It can make or break your paper.
- Proof read **OUT LOUD**
- Get someone's help

- **APA Formatting**

- Margins = 1" all sides
- Font & Size = Times New Roman, 12 point
- Spacing = double space, flush left
  - Make sure this is only double-spaced by clicking "Don't add space between paragraphs of the same style" in Microsoft Word's paragraph settings.
- Paragraphs = use tab indent 0.5"
  - (Except for Abstract)
- Hanging Indents = reference section, first line flush left, rest indented 0.5"

# TITLE PAGE

- **Remains unchanged in the Final Paper**
- **Title**
  - Recommended length = no more than 12 words
- **Title Page (page 1 of manuscript)**
  - enter title, place in upper third of page
  - Cap first letter of each word in title (called "title case")
  - Include author's name in format = first, middle initial, last
  - Next line state institutional affiliations of author
  - Start header on Title Page and include:
    - running head (abbreviated title) flush left and page # flush right
    - running head no more than 50 characters (including spaces)
    - format = "Running head: ABBREVIATED TITLE ALL CAPS"
  - Header on subsequent pages = leave off the words "Running head:" and simply include the running head itself (flush left) and page # (flush right)

# ABSTRACT

- **CHANGE TO PAST TENSE!**
- Change the research hypothesis to, "It **was** hypothesized that..."
- **Indicate results (whether hypothesis was supported)**
- The rest remains virtually unchanged
- ~150-250 words
- Brief summary of entire paper
- Center and cap the word "abstract"
- Write a single paragraph, no indents



# INTRODUCTION

- **CHANGE DESCRIPTION OF YOUR STUDY IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OR ELSEWHERE TO PAST TENSE!**
- **This section remains virtually unchanged!**
  - Unless you want to make improvements 😊



# METHOD: PARTICIPANTS

- **CHANGE TO PAST TENSE!**
- Indicate number of participants you ended up obtaining for your study.
  - Use numbers to report age ranges. Do not spell them out.
- Describe your sample: number of male and female? Ethnic groups? Education? Etc.? (Demographics)
- Where did you obtain your sample?
- Were there any incentives to participate?
- Anything relevant, unusual events happen, or difficulties encountered?
  - How did you deal with them?

# METHOD: MATERIALS

- **CHANGE TO PAST TENSE!**
- Unless you did not follow what you purposed in your research proposal , this section remains virtually unchanged
- Put an example of your survey(s), in an Appendix.





# MATERIALS: PROCEDURE

- **CHANGE TO PAST TENSE!**
- Very little should change in this section unless you deviated from what you stated in your proposal
- Describe anything that happened that was not stated in the proposal
- Describe any difficulties encountered and what was done to remediate them

# METHOD: STATISTICS

- This section becomes your results section for your final paper
  - Separate from your Method section
  - Comes before Discussion section
- Refer to handout: “Choosing Your Statistical Analysis” to perform your analysis

# METHOD: STATISTICS (SUBSECTIONS)

- **Descriptive statistics** (Subsection):
  - Means, standard deviations, and total n for demographic questions (e.g., mean, standard deviation, and n of participants' age)
  - Describe any anomalies found in the data (e.g., sample contained mainly Caucasian (non-Hispanic) individuals)
  - Means, standard deviations, and total n for each study variable
  - SPSS Analysis Demonstrations:
    - ❖ Frequencies and Descriptives
    - ❖ Explore: Tests for Normality
    - Crosstabs: Categorical variables
- **Tests of hypothesis** (Subsection):
  - E.g. Your t-test, ANOVA, or regression analysis
- **Secondary analysis** (Subsection):
  - any other interesting findings in the data

# POSSIBLE OUTCOMES CHANGES TO DISCUSSION SECTION

- Reflect on the results of your study, and interpret your findings in relation to your initial expectations.
  - How do your findings relate to what you included about the readings in your Introduction section?
- Provide possible weaknesses and strengths associated with your study.
  - Refer to the course text
  - Integrate your findings with topic discussed in lecture.
  - Think of some of the advantages and disadvantages that we've covered for different types of study designs and sampling techniques and discuss them here.
- Discuss if hypothesis was supported/not supported
  - Give some reasons why each might happen, the implications associated with both scenarios, and offer alternative explanations if your hypothesis is not supported.
- Discuss ideas for future research

# REFERENCES (REVIEW)

- Alphabetical Order
- Hanging indent
- Starts on new page
- Title, “References,” is centered
- Double spaced, 1 inch margins
- **You should have at least three peer reviewed articles, preferably found through the OCC library.**
- Common mistakes:
  - **Include doi (digital object identifiers).**
    - Most articles have doi now. Can usually be found on the articles, by Googling them, or in library database.
    - Spelled in lowercase letters: “doi”
  - Include volume and issue numbers
  - Italicize journal titles and volume numbers

# REFERENCES EXAMPLES

- Journal format:
  - Last, F. M., & Last, F. M. (Year Published). Article title. *Journal Name*, Volume(Issue), pp. Pages.
  - Ex: Fearon, J. D., & Laitin, D. D. (2003). Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review*, 97(01), 75-85. doi:10.1017/S0003055403000534
- Website format:
  - Last, F. M. (Year, Month Date Published). *Article title*. Retrieved from URL
  - Ex: Satalkar, B. (2010, July 15). *Water aerobics*. Retrieved from <http://www.buzzle.com>
  - Cain, K. (2012, June 29). The Negative effects of Facebook on communication. *Social Media Today RSS*. Retrieved from <http://socialmediatoday.com>
- Book format:
  - Last, F. M. (Year Published) *Book*. City, State: Publisher.
- Chapter from book:
  - Last, F. M. (Year Published). Title of chapter In F. M. Last Editor (Ed.), *Title of book/anthology* (pp. Pages). Publisher City, State: Publisher.
- Dictionary:
  - *Dictionary Title*, # ed., s.v. "entry name."
  - Ex: *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, 3rd ed., s.v. "donkey."