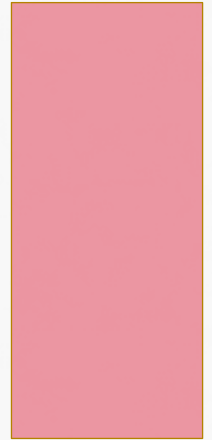


# CLEAR & UNDERSTANDABLE REPORT WRITING

EXPERIMENTAL PSY A280



# 6 WRITING TECHNIQUES

1. Signal the Research Hypothesis
2. Keep a consistent order
3. Use parallel form
4. Keep a consistent point of view
5. Repeat key terms
6. Use topic sentences with transitions

# SIGNAL THE RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

- Explicitly let the reader know that the research hypothesis is being stated starting in your Abstract and then repeat it at the end of your introduction section.
- TIP for Writing Research Hypotheses:
  - “This study examined...”, “We asked...”, or “The study purpose was...”
  - Use question words such as “whether,” or “which”
    - EXAMPLE: “This study examined whether Income increases with years of education.”

# SIGNAL THE RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

- State the **direction** of the hypothesized affect
  - Example: Higher/lower levels of “Variable 1” will cause higher/lower levels of “Variable 2.”

Research Question	Research Hypothesis
Does a training program in driver safety result in a decline in accident rate?	This study examined whether people who take a driver safety course will have a lower accident rate than those who do not take the course.
Who is better in math, men or women?	The purpose of this study was to investigate whether men are better at math than women.
What is the relationship between age and cell phone use?	This study explored whether cell phone use is higher for younger adults than for older adults.
Is there a relationship between education and income?	The purpose of the study was to determine whether income increases with years of education.
Can public education reduce the occurrence of AIDS?	This study examined whether the number of AIDS cases is inversely related to the amount of public education about the disease.

# KEEP A CONSISTENT ORDER

- Keep a consistent order with your study variables throughout all sections of the paper from the abstract to the figures
- Select the order depending upon the emphasis such as the most important risk factor, novel finding, or novel measurement
- For example, if you start discussing elevated cholesterol followed by hypertension then diabetes, always discuss them in this order
  1. Elevated cholesterol
  2. Hypertension
  3. Diabetes

# USE PARALLEL FORM

- Parallel structure means using the same pattern of words to show that two or more ideas have the same level of importance.
  - This can happen at the word, phrase, or clause level. The usual way to join parallel structures is with the use of coordinating conjunctions such as "and" or "or."
  - For example:
  - Mary likes hiking, swimming, and bicycling.
  - Mary likes to hike, to swim, and to ride a bicycle.
  - OR
  - Mary likes to hike, swim, and ride a bicycle.
  - The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, that they should not eat too much, and that they should do some warm-up exercises before the game.
  - The coach told the players that they should get a lot of sleep, not eat too much, and do some warm-up exercises before the game.

# USE PARALLEL FORM

## Now You Try

- **What's wrong with this sentence?**

- The salesman expected that he would present his product at the meeting, that there would be time for him to show his slide presentation, and that questions would be asked by prospective buyers.

- **Not Parallel**

- The salesman expected **that he would** present his product at the meeting, **that there would be time for him** to show his slide presentation, and **that questions would be** asked by prospective buyers.

- **Parallel**

- The salesman expected **to present** his product at the meeting, **to show** his slide presentation, and **to answer questions from** prospective buyers.

# KEEP A CONSISTENT POINT OF VIEW

- When the topic is the same in two or more sentences, make the subjects the same in all sentences.
- Select the subject of the sentences depending upon the emphasis, e.g., independent variable
- Examples:
  - *Independent variable*: Women exercising with a partner ran more miles than women who exercised without a partner.
  - *Dependent variable*: The number of miles run was the same for men who exercised with a partner and without.



# REPEAT KEY TERMS

- Key Terms are words or phrases that describe important ideas
- Repeat key terms exactly and early (abstract)
- Key Terms are the words you will operationally define later in your paper .
  - **Operational Definition:**
    - Is a result of the process of operationalization
    - It is used to define something (e.g. a variable, term, or object) in terms of a process needed to determine its existence, duration, and quantity.
    - The procedures included in definitions should be repeatable by anyone or at least by peers.
  - **Key terms NOT repeated exactly:**
    - Digitalis increases the contractility of the mammalian heart. This change in inotropic state is the result of changes in calcium flux through the muscle cell membrane.

# USE TOPIC SENTENCES WITH TRANSITIONS

- Use a topic and transition sentence at the beginning and end of each **paragraph**.
- Use a topic and transition sentence at the beginning and end of each **section**.
  - Example Topic: The absence of a relationship between physical activity and obesity could have arisen from limitations in the of NHANES III study.

**Paragraph 1.** One limitation is the cross-sectional nature of the data...

**Paragraph 2.** Another limitation of NHANES is self-reported physical activity...

**Paragraph 3.** A final limitation of NHANES III that could have contributed to the absence of a relationship between physical activity and obesity is...

# LAB

- Download and complete the lab, “Six Writing Techniques” **Due before class next week**
- Finalize a research topic for your group projects, and complete your “**Research Topic Approval Forms**” - **DUE February 22**
- Start conducting your library searches for your group research topics