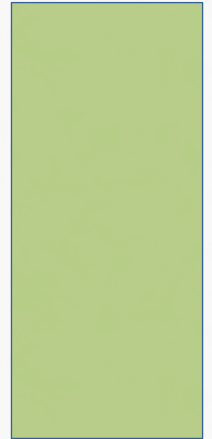




# REVIEW-WRITING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL



# FORMATTING OVERVIEW

## **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

## **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

- ~150-250 words
- brief summary of entire paper
- must include main problem being investigated
- center and cap the word "Abstract"
- write a single paragraph, no indents
- state the research hypothesis, "It is hypothesized that..."
  - Be sure to indicate the direction of the expected results.
  - For example, what will increase/decrease in relation to something else that increases/decreases.
- This should be stated in future tense.
  - The study has not been conducted yet. You are purposing to do research in the future.

# INTRODUCTION

- **At LEAST THREE Paragraphs Long!**
- An introductory paragraph
  - Supporting evidence in the body
    - Direct Quotes must have page numbers:
      - According to Palladino and Wade (2010), “a flexible mind is a healthy mind” (p. 147).
      - In 2010, Palladino and Wade noted that “a flexible mind is a healthy mind” (p. 147).
      - In fact, “a flexible mind is a healthy mind” (Palladino & Wade, 2010, p. 147).
      - “A flexible mind is a healthy mind,” according to Palladino and Wade’s (2010, p. 147) longitudinal study.
      - Palladino and Wade’s (2010) results indicate that “a flexible mind is a healthy mind” (p. 147).
    - Paraphrasing avoids the use of page numbers and is a better professional alternative.
      - For basic citation rules:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/03/>

# INTRODUCTION CONT.

- The last paragraph should briefly explain the study and explicitly states the hypothesis (labeled “Present Study”)
  - “It is hypothesized that...”
  - indicated the direction of the expected results
- Is there any psychological theory that you can add to support your arguments for this research?
  - Do a quick search in the college library.
  - Find a peer reviewed article.
  - Helpful handout provided on Blackboard for ideas: “Helpful Links for Conducting Research”
- Refer to handout for further help on writing a quality literature review in your introduction section: “Writing a Psychology Literature Review”

# METHOD: PARTICIPANTS

- Putting upper age limits on your research?
  - greatly restricts the number of possible people who could participate in your study
  - Use numbers to report age ranges. Do not spell them out.
  - Refer to handout on Blackboard for proper APA formatting of numbers: “APA Formatting Numbers in a Nutshell”
- **Approximately** how many participants will you seek to obtain?
- Are you seeking male and female? All ethnic groups? Education? Etc.? (Demographics)
- Where will you find participants?
- Are there any incentives to participate?

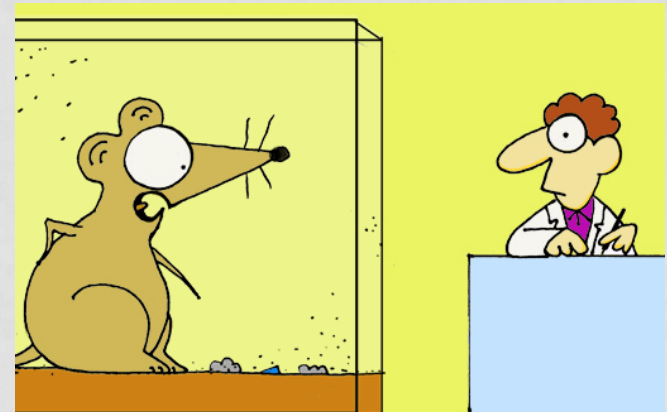
# METHOD: MATERIALS

- Describe in detail each SURVEY (e.g., Big Five Personality Test), TEST (e.g., Stroop test), and DEVICE (e.g., heart monitor) used in the study.
  - The number of questions
  - what kind of scales, if any, are used
  - examples of some of the questions should be provided
  - the construct that each measures (e.g., morality, reaction time, heart rate, etc.)
  - the proper name of the survey, test, or apparatus, if one exists.
    - Established surveys and tests need to be cited



# MATERIALS: PROCEDURE

- Each step taken from beginning to end to perform your research:
  - Details of what actually happens in chronological order
  - Location
  - Recruiting procedures
  - Time to take surveys
  - How tests or measurements are administered
  - Single-blind vs. double-blind
  - Debriefing
  - Incentives



“Hey Postdoc, clean my house!”

# METHOD: STATISTICS

- What stats will you use for your hypothesis
  - Refer to handout: “Choosing Your Statistical Analysis”
  - Number of variables
  - Kinds of variables
    - Categorical
    - Continuous
- This section will be short
  - Explain that descriptive statistics will be performed to determine normality and to inspect for data entry mistakes and outliers
  - Then give the statistics that you think will be needed to test your hypothesis
- This section becomes your results section for your final paper in which you will fill in your final results

# POSSIBLE OUTCOMES (FINAL PAPER: BECOMES DISCUSSION SECTION)

- Provide possible weaknesses and strengths associated with your proposed study.
  - Refer to the course text
  - 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.
- Some possible outcomes
  - hypothesis is supported
  - hypothesis is 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.
- Discusses possible results relative to other research in intro section

# REFERENCES

- 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 Problems found with your papers:
  - **Include doi (digital object identifiers).**
    - Can usually be found on the articles, by Googling them, or in library database.
  - Include volume and issue numbers
  - Italicize journal titles and volume numbers

# REFERENCES CONT.

- **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."