

How to present Result and Conclusion Chapter

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Writing the Result Section

Function

- **The aim of this chapter is to** objectively present your key results, *without* interpretation, in an orderly and logical sequence using both text and illustrative materials (Tables and Figures).
- The results section always begins with text, reporting the key results and referring to your figures and tables as you proceed.

Function (cont/...)

- The text of the Results section should highlight the evidence needed to answer the questions/hypotheses you investigated.
- The negative results should be reported too.
- Notice that the outcome of a statistical analysis is not a key result, but rather an analytical *tool* that helps us understand *what is* our key result.

Some problems to avoid:

- **Do not** reiterate each value from a Figure or Table - only the key result or trends that each conveys.
- **Do not** present the same data in both a Table and Figure - this is considered redundant and a waste of space and energy. Decide which format best shows the result and go with it.
- **Do not** report raw data values when they can be summarized as means, percents, etc
 - Ensure that you have used the right SOP for reporting the result based on the statistical analysis you have choose.

Writing a Discussion Chapter

Have you ever thought



This is the chapter that you could
market your thesis

?????

Discussion

- This is a chapter where you interpret your results by discussing how your results modify and fit in with what you previously understood about the problem.

General View about Discussion Chapter

- It is not as EASY as one may think
- It is not a SUMMARY!
- The discussion should not simply stop. It should come to a definite, clear end
- It is the end, but it also a new beginning! (new thinking, new ideas – but based on data)
- Does not entirely introduce new discussion/conclusion (but based on data)

Fundamental questions to answer

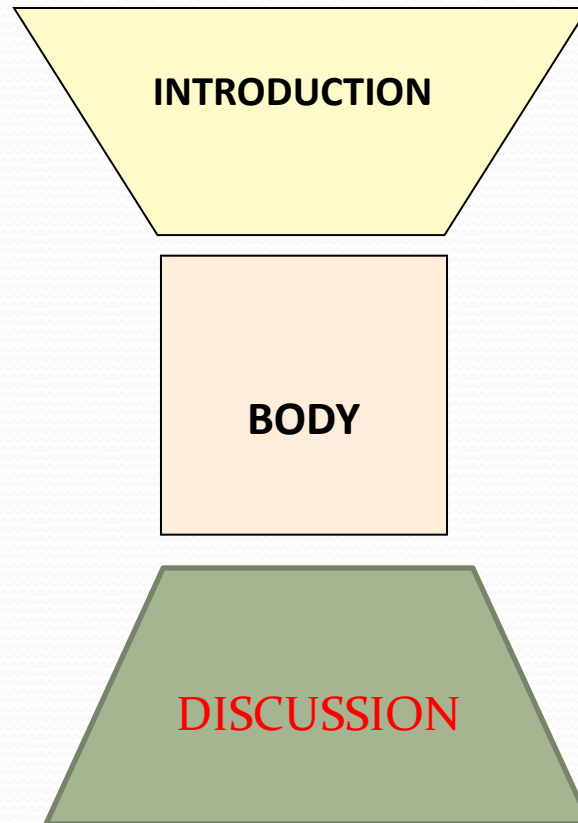
- Do your results provide answers to your testable hypotheses? If so, how would you interpret your findings?
- Do your findings agree with what others have shown? If not, do they suggest an alternative explanation or perhaps a unforeseen design flaw in your experiment (or theirs?)
- Given your conclusions, what is your new understanding of the problem you investigated and outlined in the Introduction?

Examiner's Expectations

The discussion section should be a brief essay in itself, answering the following questions

- Have picked the main points emerge from the results for discussion?
- What new things that you can highlight from your study?
- Are there links made to the literature?
 - Are the difference between your findings and those of other authors have been made clear?

Research Structure



Examiner's Expectations (cont...)

- Is there evidence of attempts at theory building or re-conceptualization of problems?
- Is the candidate aware of possible limits to confidence/reliability/validity of the work?
- Did the candidate describe the contributions of the study?
- Is there any directions for further research?

Content of the Discussion Chapter

- Introduction
- Review of the research questions
- Findings of the study – **Discussion not a summary**
- Contribution of the study
 - Contribution to theory
 - Contribution to methodology
- Practical implication
- Limitations of the study
- Future research
- Conclusion

The Don't

- ❖ Do not repeat word of the abstract, introduction or anything from your thesis.
- ❖ Do not create any new argument.
- ❖ Do not introduce new results
- ❖ Do not claim more for your results than the data really shows.

The Don't (cont...)

- ❖ Write in a „punchy“ style, but don't claim things you did not achieve.
- ❖ Avoid speculation.
- ❖ Avoid jumping into a currently fashionable point of view unless your results really do strongly support them.

General Advise

- This is the **MOST** important chapter (it's what you actually contribute in the end).
- But it is the one you have the **LEAST** amount of time for!
- **PLAN WELL DON'T** set aside this chapter!!



Q & A