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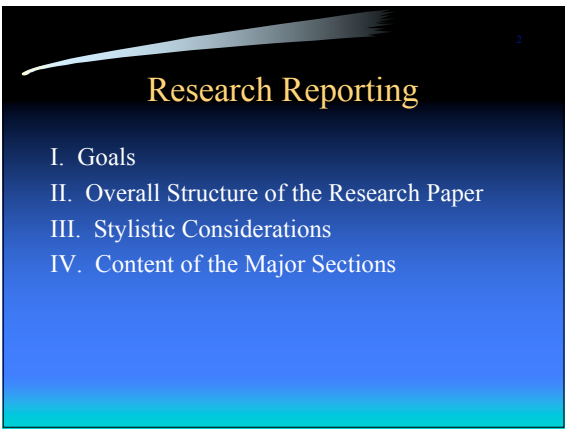
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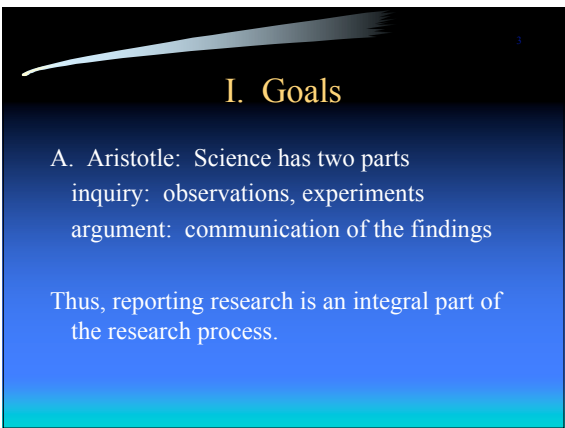
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I. Goals

B. Convention in writing:

Each field has a convention, or a set way, of communicating ideas in the field. The convention

- 1) lets the reader know what to expect, and facilitates reading of the information.
- 2) lets the reader know where to look for specific kinds of information (e.g., who were the research participants).

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B. Convention in writing:

In psychology, this convention is dictated by the American Psychological Association *Publication Manual (4th edition)*. (1994)

Knowing this format will make it easier to:

- read psychological reports
- write papers for upper level psychology courses
- write your paper in this course
- write your Masters Thesis

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II. Overall Organization

A. Structure of the research paper (hour-glass)

The diagram illustrates the structure of a research paper as an hour-glass. At the top and bottom are 'The "Big" Picture'. The middle section is divided into three parts: 'Literature Review' at the top, 'Methodological Details' in the center, and 'Discussion of Implications' at the bottom. An arrow points from the 'Literature Review' section towards the right, labeled 'Increased Focus'. Another arrow points from the 'Discussion of Implications' section towards the right, labeled 'Decreased Focus'.

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B. Contrast this structure to “inverted pyramid” used in journalism



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8

## Washington Post

OPEC Agrees on Oil Production Cuts

By Bruce Stanley  
AP Business Writer  
Tuesday, March 23, 1999; 11:40 a.m. EST

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VIENNA, Austria (AP) -- OPEC members agreed today on a plan to cut crude oil production by 2.104 million barrels a day and to maintain the lower levels of output for a full year beginning April 1, oil ministers said.

The group of 11 oil producing nations approved the plan which includes reductions by non-OPEC producers as well as those in the group in an effort to end a global oil glut and strengthen prices that had languished at a 12-year low as recently as December.

The agreement reached at an informal meeting of the members was unanimous, said Youcef Yousfi of Algeria, president of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

“The compliance, I am sure, will be 100 percent. And there is a full determination of all countries to commit to this agreement” Yousfi said, before OPEC ministers began a formal meeting at the OPEC Secretariat. He said there were no last minute obstacles to the deal.

Under the agreement, OPEC nations will reduce oil output by 1.716 million barrels a day, Algerian officials said. Non-OPEC producers like Mexico, Norway, Russia and Oman will reduce production by an additional 388,000 barrels a day.

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### III. Stylistic Considerations

A. All empirical statements (statements of fact) should include a reference.

Example: males are more aggressive than females

- says who?
- what was the research?
- give a source

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### III. Stylistic Considerations

B. Writing should be clear, and concise.

- avoid flowery wording

“A brilliant researcher, exhibiting sheer genius in his writing, Schmidt (1996)

- avoid personal references

e.g., “I spent a lot of time looking for related research, and after many hours at the library, I found an article by . . .”

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### III. Stylistic Considerations

C. Avoid redundancies:

e.g., “In his study, Schmidt (1996) found some interesting findings. In this study, Schmidt (1996) demonstrated . . .”

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### III. Stylistic Considerations

D. Use proper tense

- when discussing research done in the past, use the past tense.

e.g., Schmidt (1996) found

- when discussing proposed research, use the future or future perfect tense.

e.g., The participants will be told . . .

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### III. Stylistic Considerations

E. Avoid “sexist language”

e.g., The participant came into the experiment. He then . . .

This suggests that the participants were male!

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### D. Avoid “sexist language”

Reasons to avoid sexist language

- imprecise meaning
- often involves evaluations/ stereotypes
- distracts the reader from the content

Example: housewife as an occupation

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### D. Avoid “sexist language”

How to avoid sexist language

- Change pronouns to plural form  
e.g., The participants came into the experiment. They then . . .
- Use parallel terms: male/ female  
                                  husband/wife  
                                  boy/girl  
                                  man/woman

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### E. Use proper citation form

**Source:** Benton, D., Owens, D. S., & Parker, P. Y. (1994). Blood glucose influences memory and attention in young adults. *Neuropsychologia*, 32, 595-607.

**Cite as follows:**  
Benton, Owens, and Parker (1994)  
(Benton, Owens, & Parker, 1994)

**Second citation:** Benton et al. (1994)

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### IV. Content of the Major Sections

Overview: Title page  
                  Abstract  
                  Introduction  
                  Method  
                  Results  
                  Discussion  
                  References  
                  Figures/Tables

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## Title page

Title:

- State, in a short phrase, the major thesis of the paper.
- Include the important independent and dependent variables
- Get the readers attention

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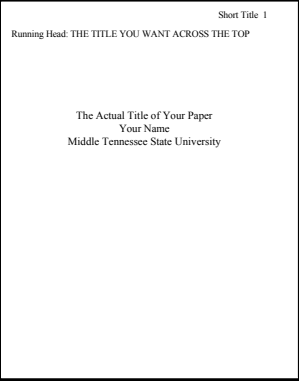
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## Page Layout



Short Title 1

Running Head: THE TITLE YOU WANT ACROSS THE TOP

The Actual Title of Your Paper  
Your Name  
Middle Tennessee State University

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21

## Examples of good titles

The trouble with levels: A reexamination of Craik and Lockhart's framework for memory research.

Since the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, has anyone beaten you up? Improving the accuracy of retrospective reports with landmark events.

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## Abstract

Like a short, stand-alone, research report.  
Often published separately  
Should provide an overall summary  
purpose, methods, and results  
Not an introduction!  
Printed first, written last!

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## Page Layout

Short Title 2

Abstract  
An experiment is proposed to investigate the roles of this on that .....,  
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24

## Introduction

Most important part for engaging the reader.  
Tell why this research is worth reporting,  
putting the research into appropriate  
context.  
Includes:  
literature review  
hypotheses  
how the hypothesis will be evaluated

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## Page Layout

Short Title 3

The Title of Your Paper  
Start your literature review and a statement of your hypothesis.

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## Method

Tell the reader what you did (or plan to do) in sufficient detail so that they could conduct your research.

- like a recipe in a cookbook
- step by step instructions

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## Page Layout

Short Title 6

and several measures of cartoon recall and recall order were analyzed as a function of cartoon type and experimental design.

Method

*Participants*  
Participants were selected from the Psychology Subject Pool. . . .

*Materials and Design*  
Twenty-four cartoons were selected from Larson (1985; 1987; 1988). Three versions of each cartoon were prepared: original, literal, and weird. . . .

*Procedure*  
Each student was seated in a small, quiet room approximately 2 meters from a screen. The pickup of a CIC Heart Speedometer was attached to the student's left earlobe . . . .

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## Method (subsections)

*Participants*  
How many, who they are, how they were selected/recruited.

*Apparatus*  
Describe any special equipment

*Materials*  
Describe any tests, written instructions, or other verbal materials

*Procedure*  
Include a step-by-step description of how the research was conducted.

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## Results

Simply state the outcome of the research.  
How were the data analyzed?  
Include summary and inferential statistics.  
Example: "The experimental group took longer to complete the task ( $M = 32.5$  sec) than the control group ( $M = 30.5$  sec),  $t(29) = 1.95$ ."

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## Results (correlational)

The raw scores from the above sample were subjected to analysis by Pearson product-moment correlational analysis (see Table 1).

The results show that the correlation between the hand-size of the male and hip-size of the respective female is +0.44 and is a significant positive correlation ( $t = 2.29$ ,  $df = 22$ ,  $p < .05$ ).

Prytula, 1975, *Perceptual and Motor Skills*.

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## Page Layout

Short Title 8

and several measures of cartoon recall and recall order were analyzed as a function of cartoon type and experimental design.

Results

The raw scores from the above sample were subjected to analysis by Pearson product-moment correlational analysis (see Table 1).

The results show that the correlation between the hand-size of the male and hip-size of the respective female is +0.44 and is a significant positive correlation ( $r = 2.29, df = 22, p < .05$ ).

Discussion

The results presented above demonstrated that humorous cartoons were better remembered than weird and literal cartoons, providing additional support for the efficacy of humor as a memory aid. Furthermore, the results provide an important replication of the conditions binding the humor

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## Discussion

What do the results mean?

- Return to the original hypothesis
- Discuss the implications (earlier research)
- Discuss shortcomings (future research?)
- Return to the big picture

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## References

List all papers cited (and only papers cited) in alphabetical order.

### References

Benton, D., Owens, D. S., & Parker, P. Y. (1994). Blood glucose influences memory and attention in young adults. *Neuropsychologia*, 32, 595-607.

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## Page Layout

Short Title 12

### References

- Asch, S. E. & Ebenholtz, S. M. (1962). The process of free recall: Evidence for non-associative factors in acquisition and retention. *Journal of Psychology*, 54, 3-31.
- Benton, D., Owens, D. S., & Parker, P. Y. (1994). Blood glucose influences memory and attention in young adults. *Neuropsychologia*, 32, 595-607.
- Bradley, M. M., Greenwald, M. K., Petry, M. C., & Lang, P. J. (1992). Remembering Pictures: Pleasure and Arousal in Memory. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 18, 379-390.
- Bruce, D., & Gaines, M.T. (1976). Tests of an organizational hypothesis of isolation effects in free recall. *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior*, 15, 59-72.
- Burke, A., Heuer, F., & Reisberg, D. (1992). Remembering emotional events. *Memory*

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## Edited Books/Books

Duncan, C.P., Nelson, J.E., & Frontzak, N.L. (1984). The effect of humor on advertising comprehension. In T.C. Kinnear (Ed.), *Advances in Consumer Research* (pp. 432-437). Chicago: Association for Consumer Research, XI.

Koffka, K. (1935). *Principles of gestalt psychology*. New York: Harcourt, Brace.

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## Tables

Table 1  
*Heart Rate Components (beats/min) as a Function of Humor Rating from Experiment 2.*

Cartoon Version	Acceleratory Component	Secondary Deceleratory Component
Low	.00	.73
Medium	.43	1.02
High	.48	1.22

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# Page Layout

Short Title 12

Table 1  
Heart Rate Components (beats/min) as a Function of Humor Rating from Experiment 2

Cartoon Version	Acceleratory Component	Secondary Deceleratory Component
Low	.00	.73
Medium	.43	.02
High	.48	1.22

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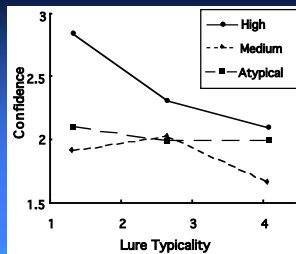
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# Figures

(caption on a separate page)



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