**Poster Conventions**

**Title**

This should be brief, and should clearly describe the variables within the study. A good title will contain the IV that was being manipulated and the DV that was measured and will read something along the lines of “The effects of (the IV) on (the DV)”. For example; *“The effects of* ***study*** *on* ***exam performance****”*

**Introduction**

This section serves three major objectives:

1. To **introduce** the area of interest.

2. To **summarise** briefly the relevant **background literature (previous research)** that led to the present research.

3. To state the **aim** and rationale of the present study with a logical development of the predictions **(hypotheses)** guiding the research.

The introduction should be approximately 250 words and should be structured like a funnel – start broad at the top and become more specific towards the bottom.

To introduce the area of interest you should define all key terms and provide any background information that is required.

You then become more specific to the investigation at hand – what is the research aim?

What is the hypothesis? Remember to clearly identify the operational IV and operational DV either within or directly below the hypothesis.

**Results**

The results section (approximately 150 words in length) contains a *summary of the results* from the raw data - it is important to note that raw data itself **must not** be included in the results section –it is to be included in your logbook.

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|  **Table:** A frequency table makes it easier for the researcher by organising the scores into some comprehensible form so that any trends in the data can be seen easily and communicated. ***Table 1.*** *Frequency of correct responses for questions on a year 1o Science Test.* |
|  | **QUESTION NUMBER** |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** |
| **Frequency of correct responses** | 29 | 26 | 22 | 21 | 28 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 17 | 19 | 22 | 25 | 28 | 29 |
| **Total** | **304**  |
| **Mean**  | **20.26** |

*Please note that you need provide an appropriate title* ***above*** *the Table as shown.*

**Graph:** A frequency polygon graph is basically a picture of the information available in a frequency distribution table. The number of scores falling in each group is plotted as points, then, a line is drawn to connect all of the points (a line graph).Below is an example of a graph. Disregard the information, but focus on the format.*Keep in mind that tables are referred to as tables and all graphs, pictures, or drawings as figures, and are labelled* ***below.***

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| ***Figure 1.*** *Frequency of correct responses for questions on a year 10 Science Test.* |

**Ensure that you:**

* Label both axis appropriately
* Give your graph an appropriate title. This is located below the graph as; ***Figure 1.*** *………………………*

**Method**

This section presents how the investigation was conducted and should be approximately 150 words in length. It should include enough detail to permit experienced investigators to replicate the study if they so desire. The Method section is subdivided into three sub sections, each with their own heading:

***Materials:***

This section **LISTS** all of the equipment and other materials used in the research (with a hard copy presented in your logbook).

***Procedure:***

This subsection is the most critical component of the Method section. This is where a detailed description **(in dot points)** of the steps involved in the conduction of the experiment is given.

Safety procedures & Risks

A demonstrated understanding of risks associated with procedure

**Discussion**

While the introduction section was described as a ‘funnel’ (starting broadly and becoming specific to the current study) the discussion is the opposite – it starts specific and ends more broadly.

The discussion should:

* Be approximately 250 words in length
* Begin by restating the hypothesis (from the introduction) and then stating whether the results did or did not support it. You need to **provide actual figures** (mean scores) from the results as evidence.
* Explain how this research relates to the previous research mentioned in the Introduction section. Were the results similar or different? Compare mean scores here where possible.
* Identify and explain **two** possible extraneous variables. How might they have affected the results? (give detail here)
* How can these possible EV’s be controlled in future research?
* An explanation of how these findings relate to the biological concepts that were introduced in the introduction
* Discussion of sources of error & limitations of data & suggestion for improvement.

**Conclusion**

A **‘conclusion’** is the final decision about what the results of an experiment actually mean. It must address the original hypothesis, clearly stating whether it was supported or rejected. It is important to note that in Biology, the words ‘proven’ or ‘disproven’ are never used.

On the other hand a **‘generalisation’** is a judgement about the extent to which the findings of an experiment are able to be applied to the population of interest.

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**References**

All sources of information directly used in the study must be cited appropriately and then listed in the References section, using appropriate **APA format**. This section should begin on a new page and you must only list the references you have actually referred to in the body of your report. For example: If you have written “Anderson (1979, cited in Hartley, 1991)” then only the Hartley (1991) reference is included in your Reference list. The Reference list is in the alphabetical order of the surname of the first author of each work cited in the body of your report. If there are two authors of the same surname, it goes in alphabetical order of the first initial.

***Use the following format when referencing books:***

1. Author. Authors surname and initials are given - i.e. Dawson, A.S.

2. Year of publication, in brackets followed by a full stop – (2015).

3. Title of the book. The title should be italicised, otherwise underlined and followed by a full stop - i.e. Psychology Unit 4. (5th ed)

4. City of publication. The name of the city if followed by a colon - i.e. Melbourne:

5. Name of publisher, followed by a full stop – i.e. Penguin Press.

**For Example:** Dawson, A.S. (2015). Biology Unit 4 (5th ed). Melbourne: Penguin Press.